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(54) Title: 15571, A NOVEL GPCR-LIKE MOLECULE OF THE SECRETIN-LIKE FAMILY AND USES THEREOF

(57) Abstract: Novel GPCR-like polypeptides, proteins, and nucleic acid molecules are disclosed. In addition to isolated, fulllength GPCR-like proteins, the invention further provides isolated GPCR-like fusion proteins, antigenic peptides, and anti-GPCRlike antibodies. The invention also provides GPCR-like nucleic acid molecules, recombinant expression vectors containing a nucleic acid molecule of the invention, host cells into which the expression vectors have been introduced, and nonhuman transgenic animals in which a GPCR-like gene has been introduced or disrupted. Diagnostic, screening, and therapeutic methods utilizing compositions of the invention are also provided.

15571, A NOVEL GPCR-LIKE MOLECULE OF THE SECRETIN-LIKE FAMILY AND USES THEREOF

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to novel GPCR-like nucleic acid sequences and proteins. Also provided are vectors, host cells, and recombinant methods for making and using the novel molecules.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

G-protein coupled receptors (GPCRs) constitute a major class of proteins responsible for transducing a signal within a cell (Strosberg (1991) Eur. J. Biochem. 196:1-10; Kerlavage (1991) Curr. Opin. Struct. Biol. J:394-401; Probst et al. (1992) DNA Cell Biol. 11:1-20; Savarese et al. (1992) Biochem 283:1-9). GPCRs have three structural domains: an amino terminal extracellular domain; a transmembrane domain containing seven transmembrane segments, three extracellular loops, and three intracellular loops; and a carboxy terminal intracellular domain. Upon binding of a ligand to an extracellular portion of a GPCR, a signal is transduced within the cell that results in a change in a biological or physiological property of the cell. GPCRs, along with G-proteins and effectors (intracellular enzymes and channels modulated by G-proteins), are the components of a modular signaling system that connects the state of intracellular second messengers to extracellular inputs.

GPCR genes and gene-products are potential causative agents of disease

(Spiegel et al: (1993) J. Clin. Invest. 92:1119-1125; McKusick et al. (1993) J. Med.

Genet. 30:1-26). Specific defects in the rhodopsin gene and the V2 vasopressin receptor gene have been shown to cause various forms of retinitis pigmentosum (Nathans et al. (1992) Annu. Rev. Genet. 26:403-424) and nephrogenic diabetes insipidus (Holtzman et al: (1993) Hum. Mol. Genet. 2:1201-1204). These receptors are of critical importance to both the central nervous system and peripheral physiological processes. Evolutionary analyses suggest that the ancestor of these proteins originally developed in concert with complex body plans and nervous systems.

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In addition to variability among individuals in their responses to drugs, several definable diseases arise from disorders of receptor function or receptor-effector systems. The loss of a receptor in a highly specialized signaling system may cause a relatively limited phenotypic disorder, such as the genetic deficiency of the androgen receptor in the testicular feminization syndrome (Griffin et al. (1995) The Metabolic and Molecular Bases of Inherited Diseases 7:2967-2998). Deficiencies of more widely used signaling systems have a broader spectrum of effects, as are seen in myasthenia gravis or some forms of insulin-resistant diabetes mellitus, which result from autoimmune depletion of nicotinic cholinergic receptors or insulin receptors, respectively. A lesion in a component of a signaling pathway that is used by many receptors can cause a generalized endocrinopathy. Heterozygous deficiency in Gs, the G protein that activates adenylyl cyclase in all cells, causes multiple endocrine disorders; the disease is termed pseudohpoparathyroidism type 1a (Spiegel et al. (1995) The Metabolic and Molecular Bases of Inherited Diseases 7:3073-3089). Homozygous deficiency in G₃ would presumably be lethal.

The expression of aberrant or ectopic receptors, effectors, or coupling proteins potentially can lead to supersensitivity, subsensitivity, or other untoward responses. Among the most interesting and significant events is the appearance of aberrant receptors as products of oncogenes, which transform otherwise normal cells into malignant cells. Virtually any type of signaling system may have oncogenic potential. G proteins can themselves be oncogenic when either overexpressed or constitutively activated by mutation (Lyons et al (1990) Science 249:655-659). In particular, the calcitonin receptor is a target for treatment of Paget's disease of the bone; the receptor for glucagon-like peptide 1 is a target for non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus; parathyroid hormone is involved in calcium homeostasis.

Antagonists of the parathyroid hormone receptor are of potential clinical use in the treatment of hyperparathyroidism and short-term hypercalcemic states.

The GPCR protein superfamily can be divided into five families: Family I, receptors typified by rhodopsin and the β2-adrenergic receptor and currently represented by over 200 unique members (Dohlman et al. (1991) Annu. Rev. Biochem. 60:653-688); Family II, the parathyroid hormone/calcitonin/secretin receptor family/Class B Secretin-like Family (Juppner et al. (1991) Science 254:1024-1026; Lin et al. (1991) Science 254:1022-1024); Family III, the

metabotropic glutamate receptor family (Nakanishi (1992) Science 258 597:603); Family IV, the cAMP receptor family, important in the chemotaxis and development of D. discoideum (Klein et al. (1988) Science 241:1467-1472); and Family V, the fungal mating pheromone receptors such as STE2 (Kurjan (1992) Annu. Rev.

5 Biochem. 61:1097-1129).

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G proteins represent a family of heterotrimeric proteins composed of α , β , and γ subunits that bind guanine nucleotides. These proteins are usually linked to cell surface receptors, e.g., receptors containing seven transmembrane segments. Following ligand binding to the GPCR, a conformational change is transmitted to the G protein, which causes the α-subunit to exchange a bound GDP molecule for a GTP molecule and to dissociate from the $\beta\gamma\text{-subunits}.$ The GTP-bound form of the $\alpha\text{-}$ subunit typically functions as an effector-modulating moiety, leading to the production of second messengers, such as cAMP (e.g., by activation of adenyl cyclase), diacylglycerol or inositol phosphates. Greater than 20 different types of α subunits are known in humans. These subunits associate with a smaller pool of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ and y subunits. Examples of mammalian G proteins include Gi, Go, Gq, Gs, and Gt. G proteins are described extensively in Lodish et al. (1995) Molecular Cell Biology (Scientific American Books Inc., New York, NY), the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference. GPCRs, G proteins and G protein-linked effector and second messenger systems have been reviewed in Watson et al., eds. (1994) The G-Protein Linked Receptor Fact Book (Academic Press, NY).

GPCRs are a major target for drug action and development. Accordingly, it is valuable to the field of pharmaceutical development to identify and characterize previously unknown GPCRs. The present invention advances the state of the art by providing previously unidentified human GPCR-like sequences.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Isolated nucleic acid molecules corresponding to GPCR-like nucleic acid sequences are provided. Additionally, amino acid sequences corresponding to the polynucleotides are encompassed. In particular, the present invention provides for isolated nucleic acid molecules comprising nucleotide sequences encoding the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2 or the nucleotide sequence encoding

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the DNA sequence deposited in a bacterial host with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-1660. Further provided are GPCR-like polypeptides having an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid molecule described herein, such as the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

The present invention also provides vectors and host cells for recombinant expression of the nucleic acid molecules described herein, as well as methods of making such vectors and host cells and for using them for production of the polypeptides or peptides of the invention by recombinant techniques.

The GPCR-like molecules of the present invention find use in identifying compounds that act as agonists and antagonists and modulate the expression of the 10 novel receptors. Furthermore, compounds that modulate expression of the receptors for treatment and diagnosis of GPCR-related disorders are also encompassed. The molecules are useful for the treatment of immune, hematologic, fibrotic, hepatic, and respiratory disorders, including, but not limited to, atopic conditions, such as asthma and allergy, including allergic rhinitis, psoriasis, the 15 effects of pathogen infection, chronic inflammatory diseases, organ-specific autoimmunity, graft rejection, graft versus host disease, cystic fibrosis, and liver fibrosis. Disorders associated with the following cells or tissues are also encompassed: lymph node; spleen; thymus; brain; lung; skeletal muscle; fetal liver; tonsil; colon; heart; liver; peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC); CD34+; bone marrow cells; neonatal umbilical cord blood (CB CD34+); leukocytes from G-CSF treated patients (mPB leukocytes); CD14* cells; monocytes; hepatic stellate cells; fibrotic liver; kidney; spinal cord; and dermal and lung fibroblasts.

Accordingly, in one aspect, this invention provides isolated nucleic acid molecules encoding GPCR-like proteins or biologically active portions thereof, as well as nucleic acid fragments suitable as primers or hybridization probes for the detection of GPCR-like-encoding nucleic acids. The invention also features isolated or recombinant GPCR-like proteins and polypeptides. Preferred GPCRlike proteins and polypeptides possess at least one biological activity possessed by naturally occurring GPCR-like proteins.

Variant nucleic acid molecules and polypeptides substantially homologous to the nucleotide and amino acid sequence set forth in the Sequence Listing are

encompassed by the present invention. Additionally, fragments and substantially homologous fragments of the nucleotide and amino acid sequence are provided.

Antibodies and antibody fragments that selectively bind the GPCR-like polypeptides and fragments are provided. Such antibodies are useful for detecting the presence of receptor protein in cells or tissues. Antibodies can also be used to assess receptor expression in disease states, to assess normal and aberrant subcellular localization of cells in the various tissues in an organism. Antibodies are also useful as diagnostic tools as an immunological marker for aberrant receptor protein.

In one embodiment, the uses can be applied in a therapeutic context in which treatment involves modulating receptor function. An antibody can be used, for example, to block ligand binding. Antibodies can be prepared against specific fragments containing sites required for function or against intact receptor associated with a cell. The GPCR-like modulators include GPCR-like proteins, nucleic acid molecules, peptides, or other small molecules.

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The present invention also provides a diagnostic assay for identifying the presence or absence of a genetic lesion or mutation characterized by at least one of the following: (1) aberrant modification or mutation of a gene encoding a GPCR-like protein; (2) misregulation of a gene encoding a GPCR-like protein; and (3) aberrant post-translational modification of a GPCR-like protein, wherein a wild-type form of the gene encodes a protein with a GPCR-like activity.

In another aspect, the invention provides a method for identifying a compound that binds to or modulates the activity of a GPCR-like protein. In general, such methods entail measuring a biological activity of a GPCR-like protein in the presence and absence of a test compound and identifying those compounds that alter the activity of the GPCR-like protein.

The invention also features methods for identifying a compound that modulates the expression of GPCR-like genes by measuring the expression of the GPCR-like sequences in the presence and absence of the compound.

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following detailed description and claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 provides the full-length nucleotide (SEQ ID NO:1) and amino acid (SEQ ID NO:2) sequences for clone 15771. The position of each of the seven transmembrane domains, TM I-VII, is shown as a boxed sequence as follows: TM I, 772-793; TM II, 807-826; TM III, 836-855; TM IV, 887-904; TM V, 925-947; TM VI, 1021-1040; and TM VII, 1048-1066.

Figure 2 shows an alignment of the sequence encompassing the region of the seven transmembrane domain (7tm) of h15571 and the following human GPCRs of the Class B secretin-like family: CD97R (leukocyte antigen CD97, 10 Swiss-Prot accession number P48960) (SEQ ID NO:9); CGRR (a calcitonin generelated peptide type 1 receptor; Swiss-Prot accession number Q16602) (SEQ ID NO:10); CRF1 (corticotropin releasing factor receptor 1; Swiss-Prot accession numbers P34998 and Q13008) (SEQ ID NO:11); CRF2 (corticotropin releasing factor receptor 2; Swiss-Prot accession numbers Q13324, Q99431, and O43461) (SEQ ID NO:12); CTR (calcitonin receptor; Swiss-Prot accession number P30988) (SEO ID NO:13); EMR1 (cell surface glycoprotein EMR1; Swiss-Prot accession number Q14246) (SEQ ID NO:14); GIPR (glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide receptor; Swiss-Prot accession numbers P48546, Q16400, and O14401) (SEO ID NO:15); GLRP (glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor; Swiss-Prot 20 accession numbers P43220 and Q99669) (SEQ ID NO:16); GLR (glucagon receptor; Swiss-Prot accession number P47871) (SEQ ID NO:17); GRFR (growth hormone-releasing hormone receptor; Swiss-Prot accession numbers Q02643 and Q99863) (SEQ ID NO:18); PACR (pituitary adenylate cyclase activating polypeptide type I receptor; Swiss-Prot accession number P41586) (SEQ ID NO: 25 19); PTR2 (parathyroid hormone receptor; Swiss-Prot accession number P49190) (SEQ ID NO:20); PTRR (parathyroid hormone/parathyroid hormone-related peptide receptor; Swiss-Prot accession number Q03431) (SEQ ID NO:21) SCRC (secretin receptor; Swiss-Prot accession numbers P47872, Q13213, and Q12961) (SEO ID NO:22); VIPR (pituitary adenylate cyclase activating polypeptide type II 30 receptor; Swiss-Prot accession numbers P32241 and Q15871) (SEQ ID NO:23); and, VIPS (pituitary adenylate cyclase activating polypeptide type III receptor; Swiss-Prot accession numbers P41587, Q15870, and Q13053) (SEQ ID NO:24).

Figure 3 shows an analysis of the h15571 GPCR-like amino acid sequence: αβ turn and coil regions, hydrophilicity, amphipathic regions, flexible regions, antigenic index, and surface probability plot.

Figure 4 shows expression of h15571 in various tissues and cell types

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Figure 5 shows expression of h15571 in various tissues and cell types relative to expression in human CD3⁺ resting cells.

Figure 6 shows expression of h15571 in normal liver and fibrotic liver samples relative to activated normal human liver hepatocytes (NHLH-activated).

Figure 7 shows expression of h15571 in hepatic stellate cells and fibroblasts relative to CD3⁺ resting cells.

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treatment.

Figure 8 contrasts expression of h15571 in normal liver versus fibrotic liver samples and liver stellate cells in their quiescent, passaged, resting, and serum-reactivated state relative to expression in hepatocytes 24 hours after TGF- β

Figure 9 shows rat 15571 expression in various tissues, including fibrotic liver samples induced by bile duct ligation (BDL) and porcine serum injection (serum) relative to controls (602-5, a normal rat liver).

Figure 10 shows rat 15571 expression in liver cell samples following
treatment with carbon tetrachloride (CCL4) relative to controls 602-5.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides GPCR-like molecules. By "GPCR-like molecules" is intended a novel human sequence referred to as h15571, and variants and fragments thereof. These full-length gene sequences or fragments thereof are referred to as "GPCR-like" sequences, indicating they share sequence similarity with GPCR genes. Isolated nucleic acid molecules comprising nucleotide sequences encoding the h15571 polypeptide whose amino acid sequence is given in SEQ ID NO:2, or a variant or fragment thereof, are provided. A nucleotide sequence encoding the h15571 polypeptide is set forth in SEQ ID NO:1. The sequences are members of the secretin-like family of G-protein coupled receptors.

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The secretin/VIP (vasoactive intestinal polypeptide) family includes receptors for peptides such as secretin, glucagon, glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1), gastric inhibitory peptide, parathyroid hormone, VIP, pituitary adenlylate cyclase activating polypeptide (PACAP), calcitonin, and growth hormone releasing hormone. VIP has a wide profile of physiological actions. In the periphery, VIP induces relaxation in smooth muscle, inhibits secretion in certain tissues such as the stomach, stimulates secretion in tissues such as the intestinal epithelium, pancreas, and gall bladder, and modulates activity of cells in the immune system. In the central nervous system, VIP has a wide range of excitatory and inhibitory

Members of the Class B Secretin-like family of GPCRs (Juppner et al. (1991) Science 254:1024-1026: Hamann et al. (1996) Genomics 32:144-147) include: calcitonin receptor, calcitonin gene-related peptide receptor, corticotropin releasing factor receptor types 1 and 2, gastric inhibitory polypeptide receptor, glucagon receptor, glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor, growth hormone-releasing 15 hormone receptor, parathyroid hormone/parathyroid home-related peptide types 1 and 2, pituitary adenylate cyclase activating polypeptide receptor, secretin receptor, vasoactive intestinal pentide recentor types 1 and 2, insects diuretic hormone receptor, Caenorhabditis elegans putative receptor C13B9.4 (Swiss-Prot 20 accession number Q09460), Caenorhabditis elegans putative receptor ZK64.3 (Swiss-Prot accession numbers P30650 and P30649), human leucocyte antigen CD97(a protein that contains, in its N-terminal section, 3 EGF-like domains) (Swiss-Prot accession number P48960), and mouse cell surface glycoprotein F4/80 (murine EMR1 hormone receptor that contains, in its N-terminal section, 7 EGF-25 like domains) (GenBank accession number X93328), human EMR1 (EMR1 hormone receptor containing 6 EGF-like domains) (GenBank accession number X81479), BAII (a brain-specific p53-target gene containing thrombospondin type 1 repeats) (GenBank accession number AB005297), GPR56 (GenBank accession number AF106858), HE6 (a human receptor having an amino terminal region with 30 identity to highly glycosylated mucin-like cell surface molecules) (GenBank accession number X81892), alpha-latrotxin receptors, and MEGF2 (a human protein containing EGF-like motifs) (GenBank accession number AB011536).

The receptor-like proteins of the invention function as GPCR-like proteins that participate in signaling pathways. As used herein, a "signaling pathway" refers to the modulation (e.g., stimulation or inhibition) of a cellular function/activity upon the binding of a ligand to the GPCR-like protein. Examples of such functions include mobilization of intracellular molecules that participate in a signal transduction pathway, e.g., phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PIP₂), inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate (IP₃), and adenylate cyclase; polarization of the plasma membrane; production or secretion of molecules; alteration in the structure of a cellular component; cell proliferation, e.g., synthesis of DNA; cell migration; cell differentiation; and cell survival.

The response mediated by the receptor-like proteins of the invention depends on the type of cell. For example, in some cells, binding of a ligand to the receptor-like protein may stimulate an activity such as release of compounds, gating of a channel, cellular adhesion, migration, differentiation, etc., through phosphatidylinositol or cyclic AMP (cAMP) metabolism and turnover while in other cells, the binding of the ligand will produce a different result. Regardless of the cellular activity/response modulated by the receptor-like protein, it is universal that the protein is a GPCR-like protein and interacts with G proteins to produce one or more secondary signals, in a variety of intracellular signal transduction pathways, e.g., through phosphatidylinositol or cyclic AMP metabolism and turnover, in a cell.

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As used herein, "phosphatidylinositol turnover and metabolism" refers to the molecules involved in the turnover and metabolism of phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PIP₂) as well as to the activities of these molecules. PIP₂ is a phospholipid found in the cytosolic leaflet of the plasma membrane. Binding of ligand to the receptor activates, in some cells, the plasma-membrane enzyme phospholipase C that in turn can hydrolyze PIP₂ to produce 1,2-diacylglycerol (DAG) and inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate (IP₃). Once formed, IP₃ can diffuse to the endoplasmic reticulum surface where it can bind an IP₃ receptor, e.g., a calcium channel protein containing an IP₃ binding site. IP₃ binding can induce opening of the channel, allowing calcium ions to be released into the cytoplasm. IP₃ can also be phosphorylated by a specific kinase to form inositol 1,3,4,5-tetraphosphate (IP₄), a molecule that can cause calcium entry into the cytoplasm from the extracellular

medium. IP₃ and IP₄ can subsequently be hydrolyzed very rapidly to the inactive products inositol 1,4-biphosphate (IP₂) and inositol 1,3,4-triphosphate, respectively. These inactive products can be recycled by the cell to synthesize PIP₂. The other second messenger produced by the hydrolysis of PIP₂, namely 1,2-diacylglycerol 5 (DAG), remains in the cell membrane where it can serve to activate the enzyme protein kinase C. Protein kinase C is usually found soluble in the cytoplasm of the cell, but upon an increase in the intracellular calcium concentration, this enzyme can move to the plasma membrane where it can be activated by DAG. The activation of protein kinase C in different cells results in various cellular responses such as the 0 phosphorylation of glycogen synthase, or the phosphorylation of various transcription factors, e.g., NF-kB. The language "phosphatidylinositol activity", as used herein, refers to an activity of PIP₂ or one of its metabolites.

Another signaling pathway in which the receptor-like proteins may participate is the cyclic AMP (cAMP) turnover pathway. As used herein, "cAMP 15 turnover and metabolism" refers to the molecules involved in the turnover and metabolism of cAMP as well as to the activities of these molecules. Cyclic AMP is a second messenger produced in response to ligand-induced stimulation of certain G-protein coupled receptors. In the cAMP signaling pathway, binding of a ligand to a GPCR can lead to the activation of the enzyme adenyl cyclase, which catalyzes the synthesis of cAMP. The newly synthesized cAMP can in turn 20 activate a cAMP-dependent protein kinase. This activated kinase can phosphorylate a voltage-gated potassium channel protein, or an associated protein, and lead to the inability of the potassium channel to open during an action potential. The inability of the potassium channel to open results in a decrease in 25 the outward flow of potassium, which normally repolarizes the membrane of a neuron, leading to prolonged membrane depolarization.

The disclosed invention relates to methods and compositions for the modulation, diagnosis, and treatment of immune, hematologic, fibrotic, inflammatory, liver, and respiratory disorders. Such immune disorders include, but are not limited to, chronic inflammatory diseases and disorders, inflammatory bowel disease, such as Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, rheumatoid arthritis, including Lyme disease, insulin-dependent diabetes, organ-specific autoimmunity, including multiple sclerosis. Hashimoto's thyroiditis and Grave's disease, contact

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dermatitis, psoriasis, graft rejection, graft versus host disease, sarcoidosis, atopic conditions, such as asthma and allergy, including allergic rhinitis, gastrointestinal allergies, including food allergies, eosinophilia, conjunctivitis, glomerular nephritis, certain pathogen susceptibilities such as helminthic (e.g., leishmaniasis), certain viral infections, including HIV, HBV, HCV, and bacterial infections, including tuberculosis and lepromatous leprosv.

Respiratory disorders include, but are not limited to, apnea, asthma, particularly bronchial asthma, berillium disease, bronchiectasis, bronchitis, bronchopneumonia, cystic fibrosis, diphtheria, dyspnea, emphysema, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis, pneumonia, acute pulmonary edema, pertussis, pharyngitis, atelectasis, Wegener's granulomatosis, Legionnaires disease, pleurisy, rheumatic fever, and sinusitis.

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Fibrotic disorders or diseases include fibrosis in general, e.g., chronic pulmonary obstructive disease; ideopathic pulmonary fibrosis; crescentic glomerulofibrosis; sarcoidosis; cystic fibrosis; fibrosis/cirrhosis, including cirrhosis secondary to chronic alcoholism, cirrhosis secondary to chronic alcoholism, cirrhosis; liver disorders disclosed below, particularly liver fibrosis; and other fibrotic diseases; as well as in the treatment of burns and searring.

Disorders involving the liver include, but are not limited to, hepatic injury; jaundice and cholestasis, such as bilirubin and bile formation; hepatic failure and cirrhosis, such as cirrhosis, portal hypertension, including ascites, portosystemic shunts, and splenomegaly; infectious disorders, such as viral hepatitis, including hepatitis A-E infection and infection by other hepatitis viruses, clinicopathologic syndromes, such as the carrier state, asymptomatic infection, acute viral hepatitis, chronic viral hepatitis, and fulminant hepatitis; autoimmune hepatitis; drug- and toxin-induced liver disease, such as alcoholic liver disease; inborn errors of metabolism and pediatric liver disease, such as hemochromatosis, Wilson disease, a_I-antitrypsin deficiency, and neonatal hepatitis; intrahepatic biliary tract diseases, such as secondary biliary cirrhosis, primary biliary cirrhosis, primary sclerosing cholangitis, and anomalies of the biliary tree; circulatory disorders, such as impaired blood flow into the liver, including hepatic artery compromise and portal vein obstruction and thrombosis, impaired blood flow through the liver, including

passive congestion and centrilobular necrosis and peliosis hepatic vein outflow obstruction, including hepatic vein thrombosis (Budd-Chiari syndrome) and veno-occlusive disease; hepatic disease associated with pregnancy, such as precelampsia and eclampsia, acute fatty liver of pregnancy, and intrehepatic cholestasis of pregnancy; hepatic complications of organ or bone marrow transplantation, such as drug toxicity after bone marrow transplantation, graft-versus-host disease and liver rejection, and nonimmunologic damage to liver allografts; tumors and tumorous conditions, such as nodular hyperplasias, adenomas, and malignant tumors, including primary carcinoma of the liver and

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metastatic tumors.

Hematologic disorders include but are not limited to anemias including chemotherapy-induced anemia, sickle cell and hemolytic anemia, hemophilias including types A and B, leukemias, thalassemias, spherocytosis, Von Willebrand disease, chronic granulomatous disease, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency, thrombosis, clotting factor abnormalities and deficiencies including factor VIII and IX deficiencies, hemarthrosis, hematemesis, hematemas, hematuria, hemochromatosis, hemoglobinuria, hemolytic-uremic syndrome, thrombocytopenias including chemotherapy-induced thrombocytopenia, HIVassociated thrombocytopenia, hemorrhagic telangiectasia, idiopathic 20 thrombocytopenic purpura, thrombotic microangiopathy, hemosiderosis, chemotherapy induced neutropenias. Other disorders include polycythemias, including polycythemia vera, secondary polycythemia, and relative polycythemia. neutropenias, including chemotherapy-induced neutropenia, chronic idiopathic neutropenia, Felty's syndrome, neutropenias resulting from acute infectious 25 diseases, lymphoma or aleukemic lymphocytic leukemia with neutropenia, myelodysplastic syndrome, rheumatic disease induced neutropenias such as systemic lupus, erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis, and polymyositis.

A novel human GPCR-like gene sequence, referred to as h15571, is provided. This gene sequence and variants and fragments thereof are encompassed by the term "GPCR-like" molecules or sequences as used herein. The GPCR-like sequences find use in modulating a GPCR-like function. By "modulating" is intended the upregulating or downregulating of a response. That is, the

compositions of the invention affect the targeted activity in either a positive or negative fashion.

The GPCR-like gene, designated clone h15571, was identified in human thymus and spleen cDNA libraries. Clone h15571 encodes an approximately 6.09

Kb mRNA transcript having the corresponding cDNA set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

This transcript has a 4014-nucleotide open reading frame (nucleotides 366-4379 of SEQ ID NO:1), which encodes a 1338 amino acid polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:2). The full-length nucleotide sequence and deduced amino acid sequence are shown in Figure 1.

An analysis of the full-length h15571 polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:2) predicts 10 that the N-terminal 33 amino acids represent a signal peptide. Thus, the mature polypeptide is predicted to be 1305 amino acids in length (aa 34-1338 of SEO ID NO:2). Transmembrane domains (TM) at the following positions of the sequence set forth in SEO ID NO:2 were predicted by MEMSAT as well as by alignment with members of the secretin-like family of GPCRs and visual inspection; TM I, 15 772-793, TM II, 807-826; TM III, 836-855; TM IV, 887-904; TM V, 925-947; TM VI 1021-1040; and TM VII, 1048-1066. The 7 TM domains are shown as boxed sequences in Figure 1. Based on the predicted positions of TM I-VII, the predicted positions of the N-terminus extracellular domain (EC), the extracellular loops (EL) 1-III, the intracellular loops (IL) I-III, and the C-terminus intracellular domain (IC) 20 are as follows as shown in the sequence in SEQ ID NO:2: EC. about aa 34-771: EL I, about aa 827-835; EL II, about aa 905-924; EL III, about aa 1041-1048; IL I, about aa 794-806; IL II, about aa 856-886; IL III, about aa 948-1020; and IC, about aa 1067-1338. Prosite program analysis was used to predict various sites within the h15571 protein. N-glycosylation sites were predicted at aa 84-87, 101-104, 25 162-165, 207-210, 275-278, 336-339, 436-439, 602-605, 659-662,690-693, 737-740, and 794-797. A glycosaminoglycan attachment site was predicted at aa 684-687. Protein Kinase C phosphorylation sites were predicted at aa 40-42. 43-45. 253-255, 338-340, 400-402, 598-600, 660-662, 698-700, 797-799, 801-803, 865-867, 976-978, 997-999, 1041-1043, 1079-1081, 1116-1118, 1233-1235, 1279-30

1281, and 1290-1292. Casein Kinase II phosphorylation sites were predicted at aa 69-72, 108-111, 231-234, 456-459, 1225-1228, and 1251-1254. N-myristoylation sites were predicted at aa 36-41, 53-58, 80-85, 98-103, 126-131, 145-150, 165-170,

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362-364.

295-300, 319-324, 392-397, 555-560, 566-571, 682-687, 722-727, 763-768, 825-830, 900-905, 961-966, 990-995, 1016-1021, 1055-1060, 1150-1155, 1163-1168, 1206-1211, 1220-1225, 1232-1237, 1255-1260, 1270-1275, 1304-1309, 1318-1323, and 1325-1330. Amidation sites were predicted at aa 4-7, 668-671, and 1178-1181. A prokaryotic membrane lipoproptein lipid attachment site was predicted at aa 676-686. An RGD cell attachment sequence was predicted at aa

Domain matches using HMMER 2.1.1 (Washington University School of Medicine) indicated the presence of several key protein domains. A search of the 10 HMM database using Pfam (Protein Family) indicated the presence of five leucine rich repeat domains, residing at aa 85-108, 109-132, 133-156, 157-180, and 604-630. A leucine rich repeat C-terminal domain was identified at an 190-240. An immunoglobulin domain was identified at aa 261-330. A latrophilin/CL-1-like GPS domain was identified at an 706-758. A search of the HMM database using SMART (Simple Modular Architecture Research Tool) revealed the following domain matches: four leucine rich repeat typical-2 subfamily domains were identified, residing at aa 82-106, 107-130, 131-154, and 155-178. Two leucine rich repeat SDS22-like subfamily domains were identified, residing at aa 107-128 and 131-157. A leucine rich repeat ribonuclease inhibitor type domain was 20 identified at an 131-157. A leucine rich repeat C-terminal domain was identified at aa 190-240. An immunuglobulin C-2 type domain was identified at aa 259-335. An immunoglobulin 3-C domain was identified at an 253-346. A hormone receptor domain was identified at an 349-426. A G-protein coupled receptor proteolytic site domain was identified at aa 706-758.

similarity with other GPCRs. Amino acid residues 367-1077 share approximately 33% identity with portions of a consensus sequence for Family II GPCRs including calcitonin receptor (CALR), corticotrophin releasing factor receptor (CRFR), and parathyroid hormone/parathyroid hormone related receptor (PTRR). ProDom analysis also indicates that the h15571 polypeptide has regions sharing similarity with several other proteins. Amino acid residues 84-131, 85-155, 110-179, and 134-187 share approximately 43%, 36%, 34%, and 24% identity with amino acid residues 26-73, 3-73, 4-73, and 4-57, respectively, of a consensus sequence for the

ProDom analysis indicates that the h15571 polypeptide has regions sharing

rat MEGF5 glycoprotein EGF-like domain. Amino acid residues 89-237 share approximately 30% identity with a consensus sequence for a family that groups together the CYAA, ESA8, and CD14 proteins. Amino acid residues 182-356 share approximately 21% identity with a protein encoded by the C. elegans

5 YK6G3.3, which also has multiple leucine-rich repeats. Amino acid residues 88-221 share approximately 32% identity with a leucine-rich repeat protein. Amino acid residues 37-176 share approximately 23% identity with the C. elegans C44H4.1 protein (Accession No. CABD1867). Amino acid residues 180-237 and 860-883 share an identity of approximately 37% and 45%, respectively, with aa residues 4-64 and 166-187 of the human KIAA0644 protein.

Shown in Figure 10 is an alignment of the seven transmembrane (7 TM) domains of h15571 with several members of the Class B secretin-like family of GPCRs. Based on sequence homology of the 7 TM domains, h15571 appears to be related to a subfamily of the Class B Secretin-like Family of GPCRs. The

- 15 members of this subfamily share similar sequences in the 7 TM domains that are distinct from other members of the secretin-like family. This subfamily includes CD97, EMR1, BAl1, GPR56, HE6, alpha-latrotoxin receptors, MEGF2, and two putative GPCRs identified by sequencing the C. elegans genome (GenBank™ accession numbers Z54306 and U39848). The members of this subfamily are
- 20 further characterized by the presence of an extremely large N-terminal extracellular region (containing, for example, several hundred amino acid residues, e.g., at least 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 650, 700, 750, 800, 850, 900, 950, or 1000, or more amino acid residues). The members of this family of molecules also share a box of four conserved cysteine residues in the N-terminus
- of TM I, which is the purported area of protoolytic cleavage for at least two members, CD97 and the latrotoxin receptor. Further, there is a cellular adhesion domain (e.g., mucin-like, thrombospondin-like, EGF-like, or lectin-like) seen in the N-terminus of members of this subfamily. See Liu et al. (1999) Genomics 55:296-305. h15571 shares with other members of this subfamily a large N-
- 30 terminal extracellular region (approximately 738 aa residues), but differs by the presence of two of the four conserved cysteine residues in the N-terminus of TM I. Further, no known cellular adhesion domain has been identified in the N-terminus of h15571. The 7 TM region of h15571 (from about aa 772 to about 1066 of SEQ

ID NO:2) shows the highest homology (approximately 19.4%) with the CD97 7 TM region.

A plasmid containing the h15571 cDNA insert was deposited with American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, Virginia, on April 5, 2000, and assigned Accession Number PTA-1660. 5 This deposit will be maintained under the terms of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure. This denosit was made merely as a convenience for those of skill in the art and is not an admission that a deposit is required under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

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The GPCR-like sequences of the invention are members of a family of molecules (the "secretin-like receptor family") having conserved functional features. The term "family" or "subfamily" when referring to the proteins and nucleic acid molecules of the invention is intended to mean two or more proteins or nucleic acid molecules having sufficient amino acid or nucleotide sequence identity as defined herein. Such family members can be naturally occurring and can be from either the same or different species. For example, a family can contain a first protein of murine origin and a homologue of that protein of human origin, as well as a second, distinct protein of human origin and a murine homologue of that protein. Members of a family may also have common functional characteristics.

Preferred GPCR-like polypeptides of the present invention have an amino acid sequence sufficiently identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. The term "sufficiently identical" is used herein to refer to a first amino acid or nucleotide sequence that contains a sufficient or minimum number of identical or equivalent (e.g., with a similar side chain) amino acid residues or nucleotides to a second amino acid or nucleotide sequence such that the first and second amino acid or nucleotide sequences have a common structural domain (e.g., leucine rich repeat domain, immunoglobulin domain, transmembrane receptor domain. G-protein receptor domain, etc.) and/or common functional activity. For example, amino acid or nucleotide sequences that contain a common structural domain having at least about 45%, 55%, 60% or 65% identity, preferably at least about 70%, 75%. 80%, identity, more preferably at least about 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%,

95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% identity are defined herein as sufficiently identical.

To determine the percent identity of two amino acid sequences or of two nucleic acids, the sequences are aligned for optimal comparison purposes. The percent identity between the two sequences is a function of the number of identical positions shared by the sequences (i.e., percent identity = number of identical positions/total number of positions (e.g., overlapping positions) x 100). In one embodiment, the two sequences are the same length. The percent identity between two sequences can be determined using techniques similar to those described below, with or without allowing gaps. In calculating percent identity, typically

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exact matches are counted.

The determination of percent identity between two sequences can be accomplished using a mathematical algorithm. A preferred, nonlimiting example of a mathematical algorithm utilized for the comparison of two sequences is the 15 algorithm of Karlin and Altschul (1990) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 87:2264. modified as in Karlin and Altschul (1993) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 90:5873-5877. Such an algorithm is incorporated into the NBLAST and XBLAST programs of Altschul et al. (1990) J. Mol. Biol. 215:403. BLAST nucleotide searches can be performed with the NBLAST program, score = 100, wordlength = 20 12, to obtain nucleotide sequences homologous to GPCR-like nucleic acid molecules of the invention. BLAST protein searches can be performed with the XBLAST program, score = 50, wordlength = 3, to obtain amino acid sequences homologous to GPCR-like protein molecules of the invention. To obtain gapped alignments for comparison purposes, Gapped BLAST can be utilized as described 25 in Altschul et al. (1997) Nucleic Acids Res. 25:3389. Alternatively, PSI-Blast can be used to perform an iterated search that detects distant relationships between molecules. See Altschul et al. (1997) supra. When utilizing BLAST, Gapped BLAST, and PSI-Blast programs, the default parameters of the respective programs (e.g., XBLAST and NBLAST) can be used. See 30

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov. Another preferred, non-limiting example of a mathematical algorithm utilized for the comparison of sequences is the algorithm of Myers and Miller (1988) CABIOS 4:11-17. Such an algorithm is incorporated into the ALIGN program (version 2.0), which is part of the GCG sequence

alignment software package. When utilizing the ALIGN program for comparing amino acid sequences, a PAM120 weight residue table, a gap length penalty of 12, and a gap penalty of 4 can be used. An additional preferred program is the Pairwise Alignment Program (Sequence Explorer), using default parameters.

5 Accordingly, another embodiment of the invention features isolated GPCRlike proteins and polypeptides having a GPCR-like protein activity. As used interchangeably herein, a " GPCR-like protein activity", "biological activity of a GPCR-like protein", or "functional activity of a GPCR-like protein" refers to an activity exerted by a GPCR-like protein, polypeptide, or nucleic acid molecule on a 10 GPCR-like responsive cell as determined in vivo, or in vitro, according to standard assay techniques. A GPCR-like activity can be a direct activity, such as an association with or an enzymatic activity on a second protein, or an indirect activity, such as a cellular signaling activity mediated by interaction of the GPCRlike protein with a second protein. In a preferred embodiment, a GPCR-like 15 activity includes at least one or more of the following activities: (1) modulating (i.e., stimulating and/or enhancing or inhibiting) cellular proliferation. differentiation, and/or function (in the cells and organs in which it is expressed, for example, lymph node; spleen; thymus; brain; lung; skeletal muscle; fctal liver; tonsil; colon; heart; liver; peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC); CD34+; bone marrow cells; neonatal umbilical cord blood (CB CD34⁺); leukocytes from 20 G-CSF treated patients (mPB leukocytes); CD14⁺ cells; monocytes; hepatic stellate cells; fibrotic liver; kidney; spinal cord; dermal and lung fibroblasts; and the K562, HEK 293, Jurkat, and HL60 cell lines; (2) modulating a GPCR-like response; (3) modulating an inflammatory or immune response; (4) modulating a respiratory 25 response; and (5) binding a GPCR-like receptor ligand.

An "isolated" or "purified" GPCR-like nucleic acid molecule or protein, or biologically active portion thereof, is substantially free of other cellular material, or culture medium when produced by recombinant techniques, or substantially free of chemical precursors or other chemicals when chemically synthesized. Preferably, an "isolated" nucleic acid is free of sequences (preferably protein encoding sequences) that naturally flank the nucleic acid (i.e., sequences located at the 5' and 3' ends of the nucleic acid) in the genomic DNA of the organism from which the nucleic acid is derived. For purposes of the invention. "isolated" when used to

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refer to nucleic acid molecules excludes isolated chromosomes. For example, in various embodiments, the isolated GPCR-like nucleic acid molecule can contain less than about 5 kb, 4 kb, 3 kb, 2 kb, 1 kb, 0.5 kb, or 0.1 kb of nucleotide sequences that naturally flank the nucleic acid molecule in genomic DNA of the cell from which the nucleic acid is derived. A GPCR-like protein that is substantially free of cellular material includes preparations of GPCR-like protein having less than about 30%, 20%, 10%, or 5% (by dry weight) of non- GPCR-like protein (also referred to herein as a "contaminating protein"). When the GPCR-like protein or biologically active portion thereof is recombinantly produced, preferably, culture medium represents less than about 30%, 20%, 10%, or 5% of the volume of the protein preparation. When GPCR-like protein is produced by chemical synthesis, preferably the protein preparations have less than about 30%, 20%, 10%, or 5% (by dry weight) of chemical precursors or non- GPCR-like chemicals.

Various aspects of the invention are described in further detail in the following subsections.

I. Isolated Nucleic Acid Molecules

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One aspect of the invention pertains to isolated nucleic acid molecules

comprising nucleotide sequences encoding GPCR-like proteins and polypeptides
or biologically active portions thereof, as well as nucleic acid molecules sufficient
for use as hybridization probes to identify GPCR-like -encoding nucleic acids (e.g.,
GPCR-like mRNA) and fragments for use as PCR primers for the amplification or
mutation of GPCR-like nucleic acid molecules. As used herein, the term "nucleic
acid molecule" is intended to include DNA molecules (e.g., cDNA or genomic
DNA) and RNA molecules (e.g., mRNA) and analogs of the DNA or RNA
generated using nucleotide analogs. The nucleic acid molecule can be singlestranded or double-stranded, but preferably is double-stranded DNA.

Nucleotide sequences encoding the GPCR-like proteins of the present invention include the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, the nucleotide sequence of the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with the ATCC as Patent Deposit No. PTA-1660 (the "cDNA of ATCC PTA-1660"), and complements thereof. By "complement" is intended a nucleotide sequence that is sufficiently complementary

to a given nucleotide sequence such that it can hybridize to the given nucleotide sequence to thereby form a stable duplex. The corresponding amino acid sequence for the polypeptide encoded by these nucleotide sequences is set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

5 Nucleic acid molecules that are fragments of these GPCR-like nucleotide sequences are also encompassed by the present invention. By "fragment" is intended a portion of the nucleotide sequence encoding a GPCR-like protein. A fragment of a GPCR-like nucleotide sequence may encode a biologically active portion of a GPCR-like protein, or it may be a fragment that can be used as a 10 hybridization probe or PCR primer using methods disclosed below. A biologically active portion of a GPCR-like protein can be prepared by isolating a portion of one of the GPCR-like nucleotide sequences of the invention, expressing the encoded portion of the GPCR-like protein (e.g., by recombinant expression in vitro), and assessing the activity of the encoded portion of the GPCR-like protein. Nucleic acid molecules that are fragments of a GPCR-like nucleotide sequence comprise at least about 15, 20, 50, 75, 100, 200, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 650, 700. 750, 800, 850, 900, 950, 1000, 1250, 1500, 1750, 2000, 2500, 3000, 3500, 4000, 4500, 5000, 5250, 5500, 5750, or 6000 nucleotides, or up to the number of nucleotides present in a full-length GPCR-like nucleotide sequence disclosed

It is understood that isolated fragments include any contiguous sequence not disclosed prior to the invention as well as sequences that are substantially the same and which are not disclosed. Accordingly, if an isolated fragment is disclosed prior to the present invention, that fragment is not intended to be encompassed by the invention. When a sequence is not disclosed prior to the present invention, an isolated nucleic acid fragment is at least about 12, 15, 20, 25, or 30 contiguous nucleotides. Other regions of the nucleotide sequence may comprise fragments of various sizes, depending upon potential homology with previously disclosed sequences.

herein (6090 nucleotides for the h15571 sequence set forth in SEO ID NO:1)

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depending upon the intended use.

A fragment of a GPCR-like nucleotide sequence that encodes a biologically active portion of a GPCR-like protein of the invention will encode at least about 15, 25, 30, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900,

1000, 1050, 1100, 1150, 1200, 1250, 1300 contiguous amino acids, or up to the total number of amino acids present in a full-length GPCR-like polypeptide of the invention (1338 amino acids for the full-length h15571 protein set forth in SEQ ID NO:2). Fragments of a GPCR-like nucleotide sequence that are useful as hybridization probes for ECP primers generally used not exceed a histography.

hybridization probes for PCR primers generally need not encode a biologically active portion of a GPCR-like protein.

Nucleic acid molecules that are variants of the GPCR-like nucleotide sequences disclosed herein are also encompassed by the present invention. "Variants" of the GPCR-like nucleotide sequences include those sequences that encode the GPCR-like proteins disclosed herein but that differ conservatively 10 because of the degeneracy of the genetic code. These naturally occurring allelic variants can be identified with the use of well-known molecular biology techniques, such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and hybridization techniques as outlined below. Variant nucleotide sequences also include synthetically derived nucleotide sequences that have been generated, for example, by using site-directed 15 mutagenesis but which still encode the GPCR-like proteins disclosed in the present invention as discussed below. Generally, nucleotide sequence variants of the invention will have at least about 45%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%. 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% identity to a particular nucleotide sequence disclosed herein. A variant GPCR-like nucleotide sequence 20 will encode a GPCR-like protein that has an amino acid sequence having at least about 45%, 55%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% identity to the amino acid sequence of a GPCR-like protein disclosed herein.

In addition to the GPCR-like nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 and the nucleotide sequence of the cDNA of ATCC PTA-1660, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that DNA sequence polymorphisms that lead to changes in the amino acid sequences of GPCR-like proteins may exist within a population (e.g., the human population). Such genetic polymorphism in a GPCR-like gene may exist among individuals within a population due to natural allelic variation. An allele is one of a group of genes that occur alternatively at a given genetic locus. As used herein, the terms "gene" and "recombinant gene" refer to nucleic acid molecules comprising an open reading frame encoding a GPCR-like

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protein, preferably a mammalian GPCR-like protein. As used herein, the phrase "allelic variant" refers to a nucleotide sequence that occurs at a GPCR-like locus or to a polypeptide encoded by the nucleotide sequence. Such natural allelic variations can typically result in 1-5% variance in the nucleotide sequence of the GPCR-like gene. Any and all such nucleotide variations and resulting amino acid polymorphisms or variations in a GPCR-like sequence that are the result of natural allelic variation and that do not alter the functional activity of GPCR-like proteins are intended to be within the scope of the invention.

Moreover, nucleic acid molecules encoding GPCR-like proteins from other species (GPCR-like homologues), that have a nucleotide sequence differing from that of the GPCR-like sequences disclosed herein, are intended to be within the scope of the invention. For example, nucleic acid molecules corresponding to natural allelic variants and homologues of the human GPCR-like cDNA of the invention can be isolated based on their identity to the human GPCR-like nucleic acid disclosed herein using the human cDNA, or a portion thereof, as a hybridization probe according to standard hybridization techniques under stringent hybridization conditions as disclosed below.

In addition to naturally-occurring allelic variants of the GPCR-like sequences that may exist in the population, the skilled artisan will further appreciate that changes can be introduced by mutation into the nucleotide sequences of the invention thereby leading to changes in the amino acid sequence of the encoded GPCR-like proteins, without altering the biological activity of the GPCR-like proteins. Thus, an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a GPCR-like protein having a sequence that differs from that of SEQ ID NO:2 can be created by introducing one or more nucleotide substitutions, additions, or deletions into the corresponding nucleotide sequence disclosed herein, such that one or more amino acid substitutions, additions or deletions are introduced into the encoded protein. Mutations can be introduced by standard techniques, such as site-directed mutagenesis and PCR-mediated mutagenesis. Such variant nucleotide sequences are also encompassed by the present invention.

For example, preferably, conservative amino acid substitutions may be made at one or more predicted, preferably nonessential amino acid residues. A "nonessential" amino acid residue is a residue that can be altered from the wild.

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type sequence of a GPCR-like protein (e.g., the sequence of SEO ID NO:2) without altering the biological activity, whereas an "essential" amino acid residue is required for biological activity. A "conservative amino acid substitution" is one in which the amino acid residue is replaced with an amino acid residue having a similar side chain. Families of amino acid residues having similar side chains have been defined in the art. These families include amino acids with basic side chains (e.g., lysine, arginine, histidine), acidic side chains (e.g., aspartic acid, glutamic acid), uncharged polar side chains (e.g., glycine, asparagine, glutamine, serine, threonine, tyrosine, cysteine), nonpolar side chains (e.g., alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, proline, phenylalanine, methionine, tryptophan), beta-branched side chains (e.g., threonine, valine, isoleucine) and aromatic side chains (e.g., tyrosine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, histidine). Such substitutions would not be made for conserved amino acid residues, or for amino acid residues residing within a conserved motif, such as the 7 transmembrane receptor domains (i.e., TM I, 772-793, TM II, 807-826; TM III, 836-855; TM IV, 887-904; TM V, 925-947; TM VI 1021-1040; and TM VII, 1048-1066 of SEQ ID NO:2), where such residues are essential for protein activity.

Alternatively, variant GPCR-like nucleotide sequences can be made by introducing mutations randomly along all or part of a GPCR-like coding sequence, such as by saturation mutagenesis, and the resultant mutants can be screened for GPCR-like biological activity to identify mutants that retain activity. Following mutagenesis, the encoded protein can be expressed recombinantly, and the activity of the protein can be determined using standard assay techniques.

Thus the nucleotide sequences of the invention include the sequences disclosed herein as well as fragments and variants thereof. The GPCR-like nucleotide sequences of the invention, and fragments and variants thereof, can be used as probes and/or primers to identify and/or clone GPCR-like homologues in other cell types, e.g., from other tissues, as well as GPCR-like homologues from other mammals. Such probes can be used to detect transcripts or genomic sequences encoding the same or identical proteins. These probes can be used as part of a diagnostic test kit for identifying cells or tissues that misexpress a GPCR-like protein, such as by measuring levels of a GPCR-like -encoding nucleic acid in

a sample of cells from a subject, e.g., detecting GPCR-like mRNA levels or determining whether a genomic GPCR-like gene has been mutated or deleted.

In this manner, methods such as PCR, hybridization, and the like can be used to identify such sequences having substantial identity to the sequences of the invention. See, for example, Sambrook et al. (1989) Molecular Cloning:

Laboratory Manual (2d ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Plainview, NY) and Innis, et al. (1990) PCR Protocols: A Guide to Methods and Applications (Academic Press, NY). GPCR-like nucleotide sequences isolated based on their sequence identity to the GPCR-like nucleotide sequences set forth herein or to

In a hybridization method, all or part of a known GPCR-like nucleotide sequence can be used to screen cDNA or genomic libraries. Methods for construction of such cDNA and genomic libraries are generally known in the art and are disclosed in Sambrook et al. (1989) Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory

fragments and variants thereof are encompassed by the present invention.

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- 15 Manual (2d ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Plainview, NY). The socalled hybridization probes may be genomic DNA fragments, cDNA fragments, RNA fragments, or other oligonucleotides, and may be labeled with a detectable group such as ³²P, or any other detectable marker, such as other radioisotopes, a fluorescent compound, an enzyme, or an enzyme co-factor. Probes for
- 20 hybridization can be made by labeling synthetic oligonucleotides based on the known GPCR-like nucleotide sequence disclosed herein. Degenerate primers designed on the basis of conserved nucleotides or amino acid residues in a known GPCR-like nucleotide sequence or encoded amino acid sequence can additionally be used. The probe typically comprises a region of nucleotide sequence that
- 25 hybridizes under stringent conditions to at least about 12, preferably about 25, more preferably about 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, 250, 300, 350, or 400 consecutive nucleotides of a GPCR-like nucleotide sequence of the invention or a fragment or variant thereof. Preparation of probes for hybridization is generally known in the art and is disclosed in Sambrook et al. (1989) Molecular Cloning: A 30 Laboratory Manual (2d ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Plainview, New
 - York), herein incorporated by reference.

For example, in one embodiment, a previously unidentified GPCR-like nucleic acid molecule hybridizes under stringent conditions to a probe that is a

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natural protein).

nucleic acid molecule comprising one of the GPCR-like nucleotide sequences of the invention or a fragment thereof. In another embodiment, the previously unknown GPCR-like nucleic acid molecule is at least about 300, 325, 350, 375, 400, 425, 450, 500, 550, 600, 650, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000, or 6000 nucleotides in length and hybridizes under stringent conditions to a probe that is a nucleic acid molecule comprising one of the GPCR-like nucleotide sequences disclosed herein or a fragment thereof.

Accordingly, in another embodiment, an isolated previously unknown
GPCR-like nucleic acid molecule of the invention is at least about 300, 325, 350,
10 375, 400, 425, 450, 500, 550, 600, 650, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1,100, 1,200, 1,300,
or 1,400 nucleotides in length and hybridizes under stringent conditions to a probe
that is a nucleic acid molecule comprising one of the nucleotide sequences of the
invention, preferably the coding sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, the cDNA of
ATCC PTA-1660, or a complement, fragment, or variant thereof.

As used herein, the term "hybridizes under stringent conditions" is intended

to describe conditions for hybridization and washing under which nucleotide sequences having at least about 60%, 65%, 70%, preferably 75% identity to each other typically remain hybridized to each other. Such stringent conditions are known to those skilled in the art and can be found in Current Protocols in 20 Molecular Biology (John Wiley & Sons, New York (1989)), 6.3.1-6.3.6. A preferred, non-limiting example of stringent hybridization conditions is hybridization in 6 X sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45EC. followed by one or more washes in 0.2 X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50-65EC. In another preferred embodiment, stringent conditions comprise hybridization in 6 X SSC at 25 42EC, followed by washing with 1 X SSC at 55EC. Preferably, an isolated nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a GPCR-like sequence of the invention corresponds to a naturally occurring nucleic acid molecule. As used herein, a "naturally occurring" nucleic acid molecule refers to an RNA or DNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence that occurs in nature (e.g., encodes a

Thus, in addition to the GPCR-like nucleotide sequences disclosed herein and fragments and variants thereof, the isolated nucleic acid molecules of the invention also encompass homologous DNA sequences identified and isolated

from other cells and/or organisms by hybridization with entire or partial sequences obtained from the GPCR-like nucleotide sequences disclosed herein or variants and fragments thereof.

The present invention also encompasses antisense nucleic acid molecules,

i.e., molecules that are complementary to a sense nucleic acid encoding a protein,
e.g., complementary to the coding strand of a double-stranded cDNA molecule, or
complementary to an mRNA sequence. Accordingly, an antisense nucleic acid can
hydrogen bond to a sense nucleic acid. The antisense nucleic acid can be
complementary to an entire GPCR-like coding strand, or to only a portion thereof,
e.g., all or part of the protein coding region (or open reading frame). An antisense
nucleic acid molecule can be antisense to a noncoding region of the coding strand
of a nucleotide sequence encoding a GPCR-like protein. The noncoding regions
are the 5' and 3' sequences that flank the coding region and are not translated into
amino acids.

Given the coding-strand sequence encoding a GPCR-like protein disclosed herein (e.g., the coding-strand sequence of SEQ ID NO:1), antisense nucleic acids of the invention can be designed according to the rules of Watson and Crick base pairing. The antisense nucleic acid molecule can be complementary to the entire coding region of GPCR-like mRNA, but more preferably is an oligonucleotide that is antisense to only a portion of the coding or noncoding region of GPCR-like mRNA. For example, the antisense oligonucleotide can be complementary to the region surrounding the translation start site of GPCR-like mRNA. An antisense oligonucleotide can be, for example, about 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, or 50 nucleotides in length. An antisense nucleic acid of the invention can be constructed using chemical synthesis and enzymatic ligation procedures known in

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the art.

For example, an antisense nucleic acid (e.g., an antisense oligonucleotide) can be chemically synthesized using naturally occurring nucleotides or variously modified nucleotides designed to increase the biological stability of the molecules or to increase the physical stability of the duplex formed between the antisense and sense nucleic acids, including, but not limited to, for example e.g., phosphorothioate derivatives and acridine substituted nucleotides. Alternatively, the antisense nucleic acid can be produced biologically using an expression vector

into which a nucleic acid has been subcloned in an antisense orientation (i.e., RNA transcribed from the inserted nucleic acid will be of an antisense orientation to a target nucleic acid of interest, described further in the following subsection).

When used therapeutically, the antisense nucleic acid molecules of the

5 invention are typically administered to a subject or generated in situ such that they hybridize with or bind to cellular mRNA and/or genomic DNA encoding a GPCR-like protein to thereby inhibit expression of the protein, e.g., by inhibiting transcription and/or translation. An example of a route of administration of antisense nucleic acid molecules of the invention includes direct injection at a tissue site. Alternatively, antisense nucleic acid molecules can be modified to target selected cells and then administered systemically. For example, antisense molecules can be linked to peptides or antibodies to form a complex that specifically binds to receptors or antigens expressed on a selected cell surface. The antisense nucleic acid molecules can also be delivered to cells using the vectors described herein. To achieve sufficient intracellular concentrations of the antisense molecules, vector constructs in which the antisense nucleic acid molecule is placed

An antisense nucleic acid molecule of the invention can be an α -anomeric nucleic acid molecule. An α -anomeric nucleic acid molecule forms specific double-stranded hybrids with complementary RNA in which, contrary to the usual β -units, the strands run parallel to each other (Gaultier et al. (1987) Nucleic Acids Res. 15:6625-6641). The antisense nucleic acid molecule can also comprise a 2'-o-methylribonucleotide (Inoue et al. (1987) Nucleic Acids Res. 15:6131-6148) or a chimeric RNA-DNA analogue (Inoue et al. (1987) FEBS Lett. 215:327-330).

under the control of a strong pol II or pol III promoter are preferred.

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The invention also encompasses ribozymes, which are catalytic RNA molecules with ribonuclease activity that are capable of cleaving a single-stranded nucleic acid, such as an mRNA, to which they have a complementary region. Ribozymes (e.g., hammerhead ribozymes (described in Haselhoff and Gerlach (1988) Nature 334:585-591)) can be used to catalytically cleave GPCR-like mRNA. A ribozyme having specificity for a GPCR-like encoding nucleic acid can be designed based upon the nucleotide sequence of a GPCR-like cDNA disclosed herein (e.g., SEQ ID NO:1). See, e.g., Cech et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,987,071; and Cech et al., U.S.

Patent No. 5,116,742. Alternatively, GPCR-like mRNA can be used to select a catalytic RNA having a specific ribonuclease activity from a pool of RNA molecules. See, e.g., Bartel and Szostak (1993) Science 261:1411-1418.

The invention also encompasses nucleic acid molecules that form triple

5 helical structures. For example, GPCR-like gene expression can be inhibited by
targeting nucleotide sequences complementary to the regulatory region of the
GPCR-like protein (e.g., the GPCR-like promoter and/or enhancers) to form triple
helical structures that prevent transcription of the GPCR-like gene in target cells.

See generally Helene (1991) Anticancer Drug Des. 6(6):569; Helene (1992) Ann.

10 N.Y. Acad. Sci. 660:27: and Maher (1992) Bioassays 14(12):807.

In preferred embodiments, the nucleic acid molecules of the invention can be modified at the base moiety, sugar moiety, or phosphate backbone to improve, e.g., the stability, hybridization, or solubility of the molecule. For example, the deoxyribose phosphate backbone of the nucleic acids can be modified to generate peptide nucleic acids (see Hyrup et al. (1996) Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry 4:5). As used herein, the terms "peptide nucleic acids" or "PNAs" refer to nucleic acid minies, e.g., DNA mimies, in which the deoxyribose phosphate backbone is replaced by a pseudopeptide backbone and only the four natural nucleobases are retained. The neutral backbone of PNAs has been shown to allow for specific

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20 hybridization to DNA and RNA under conditions of low ionic strength. The synthesis of PNA oligomers can be performed using standard solid-phase peptide synthesis protocols as described, for example, in Hyrup et al. (1996), supra; Perry-O'Keefe et al. (1996) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 93:14670.

PNAs of a GPCR-like molecule can be used in therapeutic and diagnostic applications. For example, PNAs can be used as antisense or antigene agents for sequence-specific modulation of gene expression by, e.g., inducing transcription or translation arrest or inhibiting replication. PNAs of the invention can also be used, e.g., in the analysis of single base pair mutations in a gene by, e.g., PNA-directed PCR clamping; as artificial restriction enzymes when used in combination with other enzymes, e.g., S1 nucleases (Hyrup (1996), supra); or as probes or primers for DNA sequence and hybridization (Hyrup (1996), supra; Perry-O'Keefe et al. (1996), supra).

In another embodiment, PNAs of a GPCR-like molecule can be modified, e.g., to enhance their stability, specificity, or cellular uptake, by attaching lipophilic or other helper groups to PNA, by the formation of PNA-DNA chimeras, or by the use of liposomes or other techniques of drug delivery known in the art.

5 The synthesis of PNA-DNA chimeras can be performed as described in Hyrup (1996), supra; Finn et al. (1996) Nucleic Acids Res. 24(17):3357-63; Mag et al. (1989) Nucleic Acids Res. 17:5973; and Peterson et al. (1975) Bioorganic Med. Chem. Lett. 5:1119.

10 II. Isolated GPCR-like Proteins and Anti- GPCR-like Antibodies

GPCR-like proteins are also encompassed within the present invention. By "GPCR-like protein" is intended a protein comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, as well as fragments, biologically active portions, and variants thereof.

15 "Fragments" or "biologically active portions" include polypeptide fragments suitable for use as immunogens to raise anti-GPCR-like antibodies. Fragments include peptides comprising amino acid sequences sufficiently identical to or derived from the amino acid sequence of a GPCR-like protein, or partiallength protein, of the invention and exhibiting at least one activity of a GPCR-like 20 protein, but which include fewer amino acids than the full-length GPCR-like protein (SEO ID NO:2) disclosed herein. Typically, biologically active portions comprise a domain or motif with at least one activity of the GPCR-like protein. A biologically active portion of a GPCR-like protein can be a polypeptide which is. for example, 10, 25, 50, 100 or more amino acids in length. Such biologically 25 active portions can be prepared by recombinant techniques and evaluated for one or more of the functional activities of a native GPCR-like protein. As used here, a fragment comprises at least 7 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2. The invention encompasses other fragments, however, such as any fragment in the protein greater than 8, 9, 10, or 11 amino acids.

Biologically active fragments (peptides which are, for example, 5, 7, 10, 12, 15, 20, 30, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 50, 100 or more amino acids in length) can comprise, for example, a domain or motif, e.g., leucine rich repeats and leucine rich repeat C-terminal domains, latrophilin/CL-1-like GPS domain.

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immunoglobulin domain, 7 transmembrane receptor domain, and sites for glycosylation, protein kinase C phosphorylation, casein kinase II phosphorylation, glycosaminoglycan attachment, amidation, N-myristoylation, prokaryotic membrane lipoprotein lipid attachment, and RGD cell attachment. Further

5 possible fragments include sites important for cellular and subcellular targeting. Fragments, for example, can extend in one or both directions from the functional site to encompass 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 50, or up to 100 amino acids. Further, fragments can include sub-fragments of the specific domains mentioned above, which sub-fragments retain the function of the domain from which they are derived. Such 10 domains or motifs and their sub-fragments can be identified by means of routine computerized homology searching procedures.

The invention also provides fragments with immunogenic properties. These contain an epitope-bearing portion of the GPCR-like polypeptides of the invention. These epitope-bearing peptides are useful to raise antibodies that bind specifically to a GPCR-like polypeptide or region or fragment. These peptides can contain at least 10, 12, at least 14, or between at least about 15 to about 30 amino acids. Non-limiting examples of antigenic polypeptides that can be used to generate antibodies include but are not limited to peptides derived from an extracellular site. Regions having a high antigenicity index are shown in Figure 3 for the h15571 polypeptide. However, intracellularly-made antibodies ("intrabodies") are also encompassed, which would recognize intracellular peptide regions. The epitope-bearing GPCR-like polypeptides may be produced by any conventional means (Houghten, R.A. (1985) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 82:5131-5135). Simultaneous multiple peptide synthesis is described in U.S. Paten No. 4.631.211.

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By "variants" is intended proteins or polypeptides having an amino acid sequence that is at least about 45%, 55%, 60%, 65%, preferably about 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. Variants also include polypeptides encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit No. PTA-1660, or polypeptides encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes to the nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof, under stringent conditions. Such variants generally retain the functional activity of

the GPCR-like proteins of the invention. Variants include polypeptides that differ in amino acid sequence due to natural allelic variation or mutagenesis.

The invention also provides GPCR-like chimeric or fusion proteins. As

used herein, a GPCR-like "chimeric protein" or "fusion protein" comprises a

5 GPCR-like polypeptide operably linked to a non- GPCR-like polypeptide. A

"GPCR-like polypeptide" refers to a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence
corresponding to a GPCR-like protein, whereas a "non- GPCR-like polypeptide"
refers to a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence corresponding to a protein
that is not substantially identical to the GPCR-like protein, e.g., a protein that is

10 different from the GPCR-like protein and which is derived from the same or a
different organism. Within a GPCR-like fusion protein, the GPCR-like
polypeptide can correspond to all or a portion of a GPCR-like protein, preferably at
least one biologically active portion of a GPCR-like protein. Within the fusion
protein, the term "operably linked" is intended to indicate that the GPCR-like
polypeptide and the non-GPCR-like polypeptide are fused in-frame to each other.

The non-GPCR-like polypeptide can be fused to the N-terminus or C-terminus of the GPCR-like polypeptide.

One useful fusion protein is a GST-GPCR-like fusion protein in which the

One useful rusion protein is a GST-GPCR-like rusion protein in which the GPCR-like sequences are fused to the C-terminus of the GST sequences. Such fusion proteins can facilitate the purification of recombinant GPCR-like proteins.

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In yet another embodiment, the fusion protein is a GPCR-likeimmunoglobulin fusion protein in which all or part of a GPCR-like protein is fused
to sequences derived from a member of the immunoglobulin protein family. The
GPCR-like-immunoglobulin fusion proteins of the invention can be incorporated
into pharmaceutical compositions and administered to a subject to inhibit an
interaction between a GPCR-like ligand and a GPCR protein on the surface of a
cell, thereby suppressing GPCR-like ligand transduction in vivo. The
GPCR-immunoglobulin fusion proteins can be used to affect the bioavailability of
a GPCR-like cognate ligand. Inhibition of the GPCR-like ligand/ GPCR-like
interaction may be useful therapeutically, both for treating proliferative and
differentiative disorders and for modulating (e.g., promoting or inhibiting) cell
survival. Moreover, the GPCR-like-immunoglobulin fusion proteins of the
invention can be used as immunogens to produce anti-GPCR-like antibodies in a

subject, to purify GPCR-like ligands, and in screening assays to identify molecules that inhibit the interaction of a GPCR-like protein with a GPCR-like ligand.

Preferably, a GPCR-like chimeric or fusion protein of the invention is produced by standard recombinant DNA techniques. For example, DNA

5 fragments coding for the different polypeptide sequences may be ligated together in-frame, or the fusion gene can be synthesized, such as with automated DNA synthesizers. Alternatively, PCR amplification of gene fragments can be carried out using anchor primers that give rise to complementary overhangs between two consecutive gene fragments, which can subsequently be annealed and reamplified to generate a chimeric gene sequence (see, e.g., Ausubel et al., eds. (1995) Current Protocols in Molecular Biology) (Greene Publishing and Wiley-Interscience, NY). Moreover, a GPCR-like-encoding nucleic acid can be cloned into a commercially available expression vector such that it is linked in-frame to an existing fusion

moiety.

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15 Variants of the GPCR-like proteins can function as either GPCR-like agonists (mimetics) or as GPCR-like antagonists. Variants of the GPCR-like protein can be generated by mutagenesis, e.g., discrete point mutation or truncation of the GPCR-like protein. An agonist of the GPCR-like protein can retain substantially the same, or a subset, of the biological activities of the naturally 20 occurring form of the GPCR-like protein. An antagonist of the GPCR-like protein can inhibit one or more of the activities of the naturally occurring form of the GPCR-like protein by, for example, competitively binding to a downstream or upstream member of a cellular signaling cascade that includes the GPCR-like protein. Thus, specific biological effects can be elicited by treatment with a variant 25 of limited function. Treatment of a subject with a variant having a subset of the biological activities of the naturally occurring form of the protein can have fewer side effects in a subject relative to treatment with the naturally occurring form of the GPCR-like proteins.

Variants of a GPCR-like protein that function as either GPCR-like agonists or as GPCR-like antagonists can be identified by screening combinatorial libraries of mutants, e.g., truncation mutants, of a GPCR-like protein for GPCR-like protein agonist or antagonist activity. In one embodiment, a variegated library of GPCR-like variants is generated by combinatorial mutagenesis at the nucleic acid level

and is encoded by a variegated gene library. A variegated library of GPCR-like variants can be produced by, for example, enzymatically ligating a mixture of synthetic oligonucleotides into gene sequences such that a degenerate set of potential GPCR-like sequences is expressible as individual polypeptides, or 5 alternatively, as a set of larger fusion proteins (e.g., for phage display) containing the set of GPCR-like sequences therein. There are a variety of methods that can be used to produce libraries of potential GPCR-like variants from a degenerate oligonucleotide sequence. Chemical synthesis of a degenerate gene sequence can be performed in an automatic DNA synthesizer, and the synthetic gene then ligated into an appropriate expression vector. Use of a degenerate set of genes allows for the provision, in one mixture, of all of the sequences encoding the desired set of potential GPCR-like sequences. Methods for synthesizing degenerate oligonucleotides are known in the art (see, e.g., Narang (1983) Tetrahedron 39:3; Itakura et al. (1984) Annu. Rev. Biochem. 53:323; Itakura et al. (1984) Science 198:1056; Ike et al. (1983) Nucleic Acid Res. 11:477).

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In addition, libraries of fragments of a GPCR-like protein coding sequence can be used to generate a variegated population of GPCR-like fragments for screening and subsequent selection of variants of a GPCR-like protein. In one embodiment, a library of coding sequence fragments can be generated by treating a 20 double-stranded PCR fragment of a GPCR-like coding sequence with a nuclease under conditions wherein nicking occurs only about once per molecule, denaturing the double-stranded DNA, renaturing the DNA to form double-stranded DNA which can include sense/antisense pairs from different nicked products, removing single-stranded portions from reformed duplexes by treatment with \$1 nuclease. and ligating the resulting fragment library into an expression vector. By this method, one can derive an expression library that encodes N-terminal and internal fragments of various sizes of the GPCR-like protein.

Several techniques are known in the art for screening gene products of combinatorial libraries made by point mutations or truncation and for screening cDNA libraries for gene products having a selected property. Such techniques are adaptable for rapid screening of the gene libraries generated by the combinatorial mutagenesis of GPCR-like proteins. The most widely used techniques, which are amenable to high through-put analysis, for screening large gene libraries typically

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include cloning the gene library into replicable expression vectors, transforming appropriate cells with the resulting library of vectors, and expressing the combinatorial genes under conditions in which detection of a desired activity facilitates isolation of the vector encoding the gene whose product was detected. Recursive ensemble mutagenesis (REM), a technique that enhances the frequency of functional mutants in the libraries, can be used in combination with the screening assays to identify GPCR-like variants (Arkin and Yourvan (1992) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89:7811-7815; Delgrave et al. (1993) Protein Engineering 6(3):327-331).

An isolated GPCR-like polypeptide or fragments thereof of the invention can be used as an immunogen to generate antibodies that bind GPCR-like proteins using standard techniques for polyclonal and monoclonal antibody preparation. The full-length GPCR-like protein can be used or, alternatively, the invention provides antigenic peptide fragments of GPCR proteins for use as immunogens. The antigenic peptide of a GPCR-like protein comprises at least 8, preferably 10, 15, 20, or 30 amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2 and encompasses an epitope of a GPCR-like protein such that an antibody raised against the peptide forms a specific immune complex with the GPCR-like protein. Preferred epitopes encompassed by the antigenic peptide are regions of a GPCR-like protein that are located on the surface of the protein, e.g., hydrophilic regions.

Accordingly, another aspect of the invention pertains to anti-GPCR-like polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies that bind a GPCR-like protein. Polyclonal anti-GPCR-like antibodies can be prepared by immunizing a suitable subject (e.g., rabbit, goat, mouse, or other mammal) with a GPCR-like immunogen. The anti-GPCR-like antibody titer in the immunized subject can be monitored over time by standard techniques, such as with an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) using immobilized GPCR-like protein. At an appropriate time after immunization, e.g., when the anti-GPCR-like antibody titers are highest, antibody-producing cells can be obtained from the subject and used to prepare monoclonal antibodies by standard techniques, such as the hybridoma technique originally described by Kohler and Milstein (1975) Nature 256:495-497, the human B cell hybridoma technique (Kozbor et al. (1983) Immunol. Today 4:72), the EBV-hybridoma

technique (Cole et al. (1985) in Monoclonal Antibodies and Cancer Therapy, ed.

Reisfeld and Sell (Alan R. Liss, Inc., New York, NY), pp. 77-96) or trioma
techniques. The technology for producing hybridomas is well known (see
generally Coligan et al., eds. (1994) Current Protocols in Immunology (John Wiley
& Sons, Inc., New York, NY); Galfre et al. (1977) Nature 266:55052; Kenneth
(1980) in Monoclonal Antibodies: A New Dimension In Biological Analyses
(Plenum Publishing Corp., NY; and Lerner (1981) Yale J. Biol. Med., 54:387-402).

Alternative to preparing monoclonal antibody-secreting hybridomas, a monoclonal anti-GPCR-like antibody can be identified and isolated by screening a recombinant combinatorial immunoglobulin library (e.g., an antibody phage display library) with a GPCR-like protein to thereby isolate immunoglobulin library members that bind the GPCR-like protein. Kits for generating and screening phage display libraries are commercially available (e.g., the Pharmacia Recombinant Phage Antibody System, Catalog No. 27-9400-01; and the Stratagene SurfZAP 9 Phage Display Kit, Catalog No. 240612). Additionally, examples of methods and reagents particularly amenable for use in generating and screening antibody display library can be found in, for example, U.S. Patent No. 5,223,409; PCT Publication Nos. WO 92/18619; WO 91/17271; WO 92/20791; WO 92/15679; 93/01288; WO 92/01047; 92/09690; and 90/02809; Fuchs et al. (1991) Bio/Technology 9:1370-1372; Hay et al. (1992) Hum. Antibod. Hybridomas 3:81-85; Huse et al. (1989) Science 246:1275-1281; Griffiths et al. (1993) EMBO J.

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12:725-734.

Additionally, recombinant anti-GPCR-like antibodies, such as chimeric and humanized monoclonal antibodies, comprising both human and nonhuman 25 portions, which can be made using standard recombinant DNA techniques, are within the scope of the invention. Such chimeric and humanized monoclonal antibodies can be produced by recombinant DNA techniques known in the art, for example using methods described in PCT Publication Nos. WO 86/101533 and WO 87/02671; European Patent Application Nos. 184,187, 171,496, 125,023, and 173,494; U.S. Patent Nos. 4,816,567 and 5,225,539; European Patent Application 125,023; Better et al. (1988) Science 240:1041-1043; Liu et al. (1987) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 84:3439-3443; Liu et al. (1987) J. Immunol. 139:3521-3526; Sun et al. (1987) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 84:3439-3443; Liu et al. (1987) J. Immunol. 139:3521-3526; Sun et al. (1987) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 84:214-218: Nishimura et al. (1987)

5 Immunol. 141:4053-4060.

similar to that described above

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Canc. Res. 47:999-1005; Wood et al. (1985) Nature 314:446-449; Shaw et al. (1988) J. Natl. Cancer Inst. 80:1553-1559); Morrison (1985) Science 229:1202-1207; Oi et al. (1986) Bio/Techniques 4:214; Jones et al. (1986) Nature 321:552-525; Verhoeyan et al. (1988) Science 239:1534; and Beidler et al. (1988) J.

Completely human antibodies are particularly desirable for therapeutic treatment of human patients. Such antibodies can be produced using transgenic mice that are incapable of expressing endogenous immunoglobulin heavy and light chains genes, but which can express human heavy and light chain genes. See, for example, Lonberg and Huszar (1995) Int. Rev. Immunol. 13:65-93); and U.S. Patent Nos. 5,625,126; 5,633,425; 5,569,825; 5,661,016; and 5,545,806. In addition, companies such as Abgenix, Inc. (Fremont, CA), can be engaged to provide human antibodies directed against a selected antigen using technology

Completely human antibodies that recognize a selected epitope can be generated using a technique referred to as "guided selection." In this approach a selected non-human monoclonal antibody, e.g., a murine antibody, is used to guide the selection of a completely human antibody recognizing the same epitope. This technology is described by Jespers et al. (1994) BioTechnology 12:899-903).

An anti-GPCR-like antibody (e.g., a monoclonal antibody) can be used to isolate GPCR-like proteins by standard techniques, such as affinity chromatography or immunoprecipitation. An anti-GPCR-like antibody can facilitate the purification of natural GPCR-like protein from cells and of recombinantly produced GPCR-like protein expressed in host cells. Moreover, an anti-GPCR-like antibody can be used to detect GPCR-like protein (e.g., in a cellular lysate or cell supernatant) in order to evaluate the abundance and pattern of expression of the GPCR-like protein. Anti-GPCR-like antibodies can be used diagnostically to monitor protein levels in tissue as part of a clinical testing procedure, e.g., to, for example, determine the efficacy of a given treatment regimen. Detection can be facilitated by coupling the antibody to a detectable substance. Examples of detectable substances include various enzymes, prosthetic groups, fluorescent materials, luminescent materials, bioluminescent materials, and radioactive materials. Examples of suitable enzymes include horseradish

peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase, β-galactosidase, or acetylcholinesterase; examples of suitable prosthetic group complexes include streptavidin/biotin and avidin/biotin; examples of suitable fluorescent materials include umbelliferone, fluorescein, fluorescein isothiocyanate, rhodamine, dichlorotriazinylamine

5 fluorescein, dansyl chloride or phycocrythrin; an example of a luminescent material includes luminol; examples of bioluminescent materials include luciferase, luciferin, and aequorin; and examples of suitable radioactive material include ¹²⁵L. ¹³¹L. ³⁵S. or ³H.

Further, an antibody (or fragment thereof) may be conjugated to a

10 therapeutic moiety such as a cytotoxin, a therapeutic agent or a radioactive metal ion. A cytotoxin or cytotoxic agent includes any agent that is detrimental to cells. Examples include taxol, cytochalasin B, gramicidin D, ethidium bromide, emetine, mitomycin, etoposide, tenoposide, vincristine, vinblastine, colchicin, doxorubicin, daunorubicin, dihydroxy anthracin dione, mitoxantrone, mithramycin, actinomycin D, 1-dehydrotestosterone, glucocorticoids, procaine, tetracaine, lidocaine, 15 propranolol, and puromycin and analogs or homologs thereof. Therapeutic agents include, but are not limited to, antimetabolites (e.g., methotrexate, 6mercaptopurine, 6-thioguanine, cytarabine, 5-fluorouracil decarbazine), alkylating agents (e.g., mechlorethamine, thioepa chlorambucil, melphalan, carmustine (BSNU) and lomustine (CCNU), cyclothosphamide, busulfan, dibromomannitol, 20 streptozotocin, mitomycin C, and cis-dichlorodiamine platinum (II) (DDP) cisplatin), anthracyclines (e.g., daunorubicin (formerly daunomycin) and doxorubicin), antibiotics (e.g., dactinomycin (formerly actinomycin), bleomycin, mithramycin, and anthramycin (AMC)), and anti-mitotic agents (e.g., vincristine 25 and vinblastine). The conjugates of the invention can be used for modifying a given biological response, the drug moiety is not to be construed as limited to classical chemical therapeutic agents. For example, the drug moiety may be a protein or polypeptide possessing a desired biological activity. Such proteins may include, for example, a toxin such as abrin, ricin A, pseudomonas exotoxin, or diphtheria toxin; a protein such as tumor necrosis factor-alpha, tumor necrosis 30 factor-beta, alpha-interferon, beta-interferon, nerve growth factor, platelet derived growth factor, tissue plasminogen activator; or, biological response modifiers such as, for example, lymphokines, interleukin-1 ("IL-1"), interleukin-2 ("IL-2"),

interleukin-6 ("IL-6"), granulocyte macrophase colony stimulating factor ("GM-CSF"), granulocyte colony stimulating factor ("G-CSF"), or other growth factors. Techniques for conjugating such therapeutic mojety to antibodies are well known, see, e.g., Arnon et al., "Monoclonal Antibodies For Immunotargeting Of 5 Drugs In Cancer Therapy", in Monoclonal Antibodies And Cancer Therapy. Reisfeld et al. (eds.), pp. 243-56 (Alan R. Liss, Inc. 1985); Hellstrom et al., "Antibodies For Drug Delivery", in Controlled Drug Delivery (2nd Ed.), Robinson et al. (eds.), pp. 623-53 (Marcel Dekker, Inc. 1987); Thorpe, "Antibody Carriers Of Cytotoxic Agents In Cancer Therapy: A Review", in Monoclonal Antibodies 10 '84:Biological And clinical Applications, Pinchera et al. (eds.), pp. 475-506 (1985); "Analysis, Results, And Future Prospective Of The Therapeutic Use Of Radiolabeled Antibody In Cancer Therapy", in Monoclonal Antibodies For Cancer Detection And Therapy, Baldwin et al. (eds.), pp. 303-16 (Academic Press 1985). and Thorpe et al., "The Preparation And Cytotoxic Properties Of Antibody-Toxin 15 Conjugates", Immunol. Rev., 62:119-58 (1982). Alternatively, an antibody can be conjugated to a second antibody to form an antibody heteroconjugate as described by Segal in U.S. Patent No. 4,676,980.

III. Recombinant Expression Vectors and Host Cells

20 Another aspect of the invention pertains to vectors, preferably expression vectors, containing a nucleic acid encoding a GPCR-like protein (or a portion thereof). "Vector" refers to a nucleic acid molecule capable of transporting another nucleic acid to which it has been linked, such as a "plasmid", a circular doublestranded DNA loop into which additional DNA segments can be ligated, or a viral 25 vector, where additional DNA segments can be ligated into the viral genome. The vectors are useful for autonomous replication in a host cell or may be integrated into the genome of a host cell upon introduction into the host cell, and thereby are replicated along with the host genome (e.g., nonepisomal mammalian vectors). Expression vectors are capable of directing the expression of genes to which they 30 are operably linked. In general, expression vectors of utility in recombinant DNA techniques are often in the form of plasmids (vectors). However, the invention is intended to include such other forms of expression vectors, such as viral vectors

(e.g., replication defective retroviruses, adenoviruses, and adeno-associated viruses), that serve equivalent functions.

The recombinant expression vectors of the invention comprise a nucleic acid of the invention in a form suitable for expression of the nucleic acid in a host 5 cell. This means that the recombinant expression vectors include one or more regulatory sequences, selected on the basis of the host cells to be used for expression, operably linked to the nucleic acid sequence to be expressed. "Operably linked" is intended to mean that the nucleotide sequence of interest is linked to the regulatory sequence(s) in a manner that allows for expression of the 10 nucleotide sequence (e.g., in an in vitro transcription/translation system or in a host cell when the vector is introduced into the host cell). The term "regulatory sequence" is intended to include promoters, enhancers, and other expression control elements (e.g., polyadenylation signals). See, for example, Goeddel (1990) in Gene Expression Technology: Methods in Enzymology 185 (Academic Press, San Diego, CA). Regulatory sequences include those that direct constitutive 15 expression of a nucleotide sequence in many types of host cell and those that direct expression of the nucleotide sequence only in certain host cells (e.g., tissuespecific regulatory sequences). It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the design of the expression vector can depend on such factors as the choice of the 20 host cell to be transformed, the level of expression of protein desired, etc. The

expression vectors of the invention can be introduced into host cells to thereby produce proteins or peptides, including fusion proteins or peptides, encoded by nucleic acids as described herein (e.g., GPCR-like proteins, mutant forms of

GPCR-like proteins, fusion proteins, etc.).

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The recombinant expression vectors of the invention can be designed for expression of GPCR-like protein in prokaryotic or eukaryotic host cells. Expression of proteins in prokaryotes is most often carried out in *E. coli* with vectors containing constitutive or inducible promoters directing the expression of either fusion or nonfusion proteins. Fusion vectors add a number of amino acids to a protein encoded therein, usually to the amino terminus of the recombinant protein. Typical fusion expression vectors include pGEX (Pharmacia Biotech Inc; Smith and Johnson (1988) *Gene* 67:31-40), pMAL (New England Biolabs, Beverly, MA), and pRIT5 (Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ) which fuse glutathione S-

transferase (GST), maltose E binding protein, or protein A, respectively, to the target recombinant protein. Examples of suitable inducible nonfusion E. coli expression vectors include pTre (Amann et al. (1988) Gene 69:301-315) and pET 11d (Studier et al. (1990) in Gene Expression Technology: Methods in

5 Enzymology 185 (Academic Press, San Diego, CA), pp. 60-89). Strategies to maximize recombinant protein expression in E. coli can be found in Gottesman (1990) in Gene Expression Technology: Methods in Enzymology 185 (Academic Press, CA), pp. 119-128 and Wada et al. (1992) Nucleic Acids Res. 20:2111-2118. Target gene expression from the pTrc vector relies on host RNA polymerase

10 transcription from a hybrid trp-lac fusion promoter.

Suitable eukaryotic host cells include insect cells (examples of Baculovirus vectors available for expression of proteins in cultured insect cells (e.g., Sf 9 cells) include the pAc series (Smith et al. (1983) Mol. Cell Biol. 3:2156-2165) and the pVL series (Lucklow and Summers (1989) Virology 170:31-39)); yeast cells

- 15 (examples of vectors for expression in yeast S. cereivisiae include pYepSec1 (Baldari et al. (1987) EMBO J. 6:229-234), pMFa (Kurjan and Herskowitz (1982) Cell 30:933-943), pJRY88 (Schultz et al. (1987) Gene 54:113-123), pYES2 (Invitrogen Corporation, San Diego, CA), and pPicZ (Invitrogen Corporation, San Diego, CA)); or mammalian cells (mammalian expression vectors include pCDM8
- 20 (Seed (1987) Nature 329:840) and pMT2PC (Kaufman et al. (1987) EMBO J. 6:187:195)). Suitable mammalian cells include Chinese hamster ovary cells (CHO) or SV40 transformed simian kidney cells (COS). In mammalian cells, the expression vector's control functions are often provided by viral regulatory elements. For example, commonly used promoters are derived from polyoma,
- 25 Adenovirus 2, cytomegalovirus, and Simian Virus 40. For other suitable expression systems for both prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells, see chapters 16 and 17 of Sambrook et al. (1989) Molecular cloning: A Laboratory Manual (2d ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Plainview, NY). See, Goeddel (1990) in Gene Expression Technology: Methods in Enzymology 185 (Academic Press, San
- 30 Diego, CA). Alternatively, the recombinant expression vector can be transcribed and translated in vitro, for example using T7 promoter regulatory sequences and T7 polymerase.

The terms "host cell" and "recombinant host cell" are used interchangeably herein. It is understood that such terms refer not only to the particular subject cell but to the progeny or potential progeny of such a cell. Because certain modifications may occur in succeeding generations due to either mutation or environmental influences.

such progeny may not, in fact, be identical to the parent cell but are still included within the scope of the term as used herein.

In one embodiment, the expression vector is a recombinant mammalian

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expression vector that comprises tissue-specific regulatory elements that direct expression of the nucleic acid preferentially in a particular cell type. Suitable tissue-specific promoters include the albumin promoter (e.g., liver-specific promoter; Pinkert et al. (1987) Genes Dev. 1:268-277), lymphoid-specific promoters (Calame and Eaton (1988) Adv. Immunol. 43:235-275), in particular promoters of T cell receptors (Winoto and Baltimore (1989) EMBO J. 8:729-733) and immunoglobulins (Banerji et al. (1983) Cell 33:729-740; Queen and Baltimore (1983) Cell 33:741-748), neuron-specific promoters (e.g., the neurofilament promoter; Byrne and Ruddle (1989) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 86:5473-5477), pancreas-specific promoters (Edlund et al. (1985) Science 230:912-916), and mammary gland-specific promoters (e.g., milk whey promoter; U.S. Patent No.

4,873,316 and European Application Patent Publication No. 264,166). Developmentally-regulated promoters are also encompassed, for example the murine homeobox (Hox) promoter (Kessel and Gruss (1990) Science 249:374-379), the α-fetoprotein promoter (Campes and Tilghman (1989) Genes Dev. 3:537-546), and the like.

The invention further provides a recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA molecule of the invention cloned into the expression vector in an antisense orientation. That is, the DNA molecule is operably linked to a regulatory sequence in a manner that allows for expression (by transcription of the DNA molecule) of an RNA molecule that is antisense to GPCR-like mRNA. Regulatory sequences operably linked to a nucleic acid cloned in the antisense orientation can be chosen to direct the continuous expression of the antisense RNA molecule in a variety of cell types, for instance viral promoters and/or enhancers, or regulatory sequences can be chosen to direct constitutive, tissue-specific, or cell-type-specific expression

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of antisense RNA. The antisense expression vector can be in the form of a recombinant plasmid, phagemid, or attenuated virus in which antisense nucleic acids are produced under the control of a high efficiency regulatory region, the activity of which can be determined by the cell type into which the vector is introduced. For a discussion of the regulation of gene expression using antisense genes, see Weintraub et al. (1986) Reviews - Trends in Genetics, Vol. 1(1).

Vector DNA can be introduced into prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells via conventional transformation or transfection techniques. As used herein, the terms "transformation" and "transfection" are intended to refer to a variety of artrecognized techniques for introducing foreign nucleic acid (e.g., DNA) into a host cell, including calcium phosphate or calcium chloride co-precipitation, DEAEdextran-mediated transfection, lipofection, or electroporation. Suitable methods for transforming or transfecting host cells can be found in Sambrook et al. (1989) Molecular Cloning: A Laboraty Manual (2d ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Plainview, NY) and other laboratory manuals.

For stable transfection of mammalian cells, it is known that, depending upon the expression vector and transfection technique used, only a small fraction of cells may integrate the foreign DNA into their genome. In order to identify and select these integrants, a gene that encodes a selectable marker (e.g., for resistance to antibiotics) is generally introduced into the host cells along with the gene of interest. Preferred selectable markers include those which confer resistance to drugs, such as G418, hygromycin, and methotrexate. Nucleic acid encoding a selectable marker can be introduced into a host cell on the same vector as that encoding a GPCR-like protein or can be introduced on a separate vector. Cells stably transfected with the introduced nucleic acid can be identified by drug 25 selection (e.g., cells that have incorporated the selectable marker gene will survive, while the other cells die).

A host cell of the invention, such as a prokaryotic or eukaryotic host cell in culture, can be used to produce (i.e., express) GPCR-like protein. Accordingly, the invention further provides methods for producing GPCR-like protein using the host cells of the invention. In one embodiment, the method comprises culturing the host cell of the invention, into which a recombinant expression vector encoding a GPCR-like protein has been introduced, in a suitable medium such that GPCR-like

protein is produced. In another embodiment, the method further comprises isolating GPCR-like protein from the medium or the host cell.

The host cells of the invention can also be used to produce nonhuman transgenic animals. For example, in one embodiment, a host cell of the invention is a fertilized oocyte or an embryonic stem cell into which GPCR-like-coding sequences have been introduced. Such host cells can then be used to create nonhuman transgenic animals in which exogenous GPCR-like sequences have been introduced into their genome or homologous recombinant animals in which endogenous GPCR-like sequences have been altered. Such animals are useful for 10 studying the function and/or activity of GPCR-like genes and proteins and for identifying and/or evaluating modulators of GPCR-like activity. As used herein, a "transgenic animal" is a nonhuman animal, preferably a mammal, more preferably a rodent such as a rat or mouse, in which one or more of the cells of the animal includes a transgene. Other examples of transgenic animals include nonhuman primates, sheep, dogs, cows, goats, chickens, amphibians, etc. A transgene is 15 exogenous DNA that is integrated into the genome of a cell from which a transgenic animal develops and which remains in the genome of the mature animal, thereby directing the expression of an encoded gene product in one or more cell types or tissues of the transgenic animal. As used herein, a "homologous recombinant animal" is a nonhuman animal, preferably a mammal, more preferably 20 a mouse, in which an endogenous GPCR-like gene has been altered by homologous recombination between the endogenous gene and an exogenous DNA molecule introduced into a cell of the animal, e.g., an embryonic cell of the animal, prior to development of the animal.

A transgenic animal of the invention can be created by introducing GPCR-like-encoding nucleic acid into the male pronuclei of a fertilized occyte, e.g., by microinjection, retroviral infection, and allowing the occyte to develop in a pseudopregnant female foster animal. The GPCR-like cDNA sequence can be introduced as a transgene into the genome of a nonhuman animal. Alternatively, a homologue of the mouse GPCR-like gene can be isolated based on hybridization and used as a transgene. Intronic sequences and polyadenylation signals can also be included in the transgene to increase the efficiency of expression of the transgene. A tissue-specific regulatory sequence(s) can be operably linked to the

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GPCR-like transgene to direct expression of GPCR-like protein to particular cells.

Methods for generating transgenic animals via embryo manipulation and microinjection, particularly animals such as mice, have become conventional in the art and are described, for example, in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,736,866, 4,870,009, and 5 4,873,191 and in Hogan (1986) Manipulating the Mouse Embryo (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 1986). Similar methods are used for production of other transgenic animals. A transgenic founder animal can be identified based upon the presence of the GPCR-like transgene in its genome and/or expression of GPCR-like mRNA in tissues or cells of the animals. A transgenic founder animal can then be used to breed additional animals carrying the transgene. Moreover, transgenic animals carrying a transgene encoding GPCR-like gene can further be bred to other transgenic animals carrying other transgenes.

To create a homologous recombinant animal, one prepares a vector 15 containing at least a portion of a GPCR-like gene or a homolog of the gene into which a deletion, addition, or substitution has been introduced to thereby alter, e.g., functionally disrupt, the GPCR-like gene. In a preferred embodiment, the vector is designed such that, upon homologous recombination, the endogenous GPCR-like gene is functionally disrupted (i.e., no longer encodes a functional protein; also referred to as a "knock out" vector). Alternatively, the vector can be designed such 20 that, upon homologous recombination, the endogenous GPCR-like gene is mutated or otherwise altered but still encodes functional protein (e.g., the upstream regulatory region can be altered to thereby alter the expression of the endogenous GPCR-like protein). In the homologous recombination vector, the altered portion 25 of the GPCR-like gene is flanked at its 5' and 3' ends by additional nucleic acid of the GPCR-like gene to allow for homologous recombination to occur between the exogenous GPCR-like gene carried by the vector and an endogenous GPCR-like gene in an embryonic stem cell. The additional flanking GPCR-like nucleic acid is of sufficient length for successful homologous recombination with the endogenous gene. Typically, several kilobases of flanking DNA (at both the 5' and 3' ends) are 30 included in the vector (see, e.g., Thomas and Capecchi (1987) Cell 51:503 for a description of homologous recombination vectors). The vector is introduced into an embryonic stem cell line (e.g., by electroporation), and cells in which the

introduced GPCR-like gene has homologously recombined with the endogenous GPCR-like gene are selected (see, e.g., Li et al. (1992) Cell 69:915). The selected cells are then injected into a blastocyst of an animal (e.g., a mouse) to form aggregation chimens (see, e.g., Bradley (1987) in Teratocarcinomas and Embryonic Stem Cells: A Practical Approach, ed. Robertson (IRL, Oxford pp. 113-152). A chimeric embryo can then be implanted into a suitable pseudopregnant female foster animal and the embryo brought to term. Progeny harboring the homologously recombined DNA in their germ cells can be used to breed animals in which all cells of the animal contain the homologously recombined DNA by germline transmission of the transgene. Methods for constructing homologous recombination vectors and homologous recombinant animals are described further in Bradley (1991) Current Opinion in BioTechnology 2:823-829 and in PCT Publication Nos. WO 90/11354, WO 91/01140. WO 92/0968, and WO 93/04169.

In another embodiment, transgenic nonhuman animals containing selected systems that allow for regulated expression of the transgene can be produced. One example of such a system is the *cre/loxP* recombinase system of bacteriophage Pl. For a description of the *cre/loxP* recombinase system, see, e.g., Lakso et al. (1992) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89:6232-6236. Another example of a recombinase system is the FLP recombinase system of Saccharomyces cerevisiae (O'Gorman et al. (1991) Science 251:1351-1355). If a *cre/loxP* recombinase system is used to regulate expression of the transgene, animals containing transgenes encoding both the Cre recombinase and a selected protein are required. Such animals can be provided through the construction of "double" transgenic animals, e.g., by mating two transgenic animals, one containing a transgene encoding a selected protein and the other containing a transgene encoding a selected protein and the other containing a transgene encoding a recombinase.

Clones of the nonhuman transgenic animals described herein can also be produced according to the methods described in Wilmut et al. (1997) Nature 385:810-813 and PCT Publication Nos. WO 97/07668 and WO 97/07669.

IV. Pharmaceutical Compositions

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The GPCR-like nucleic acid molecules, GPCR-like proteins, and modulators thereof (e.g., anti-GPCR-like antibodies) (also referred to herein as

"active compounds") of the invention can be incorporated into pharmaceutical compositions suitable for administration. Such compositions typically comprise the nucleic acid molecule, protein, or modulators thereof (e.g., antibody or small molecule) and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. As used herein the language "pharmaceutically acceptable carrier" is intended to include any and all solvents, dispersion media, coatings, antibacterial and antifungal agents, isotonic and absorption delaying agents, and the like, compatible with pharmaceutical administration. The use of such media and agents for pharmaceutically active substances is well known in the art. Except insofar as any conventional media or agent is incompatible with the active compound, use thereof in the compositions is contemplated. Supplementary active compounds can also be incorporated into the

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compositions.

The compositions of the invention are useful to treat any of the disorders discussed herein. The compositions are provided in therapeutically effective amounts. By "therapeutically effective amounts" is intended an amount sufficient to modulate the desired response. As defined herein, a therapeutically effective amount of protein or polypeptide (i.e., an effective dosage) ranges from about 0.001 to 30 mg/kg body weight, preferably about 0.01 to 25 mg/kg body weight, more preferably about 0.1 to 20 mg/kg body weight, and even more preferably about 1 to 10 mg/kg, 2 to 9 mg/kg, 3 to 8 mg/kg, 4 to 7 mg/kg, or 5 to 6 mg/kg body weight.

The skilled artisan will appreciate that certain factors may influence the dosage required to effectively treat a subject, including but not limited to the severity of the disease or disorder, previous treatments, the general health and/or age of the subject, and other diseases present. Moreover, treatment of a subject with a therapeutically effective amount of a protein, polypeptide, or antibody can include a single treatment or, preferably, can include a series of treatments. In a preferred example, a subject is treated with antibody, protein, or polypeptide in the range of between about 0.1 to 20 mg/kg body weight, one time per week for between about 1 to 10 weeks, preferably between 2 to 8 weeks, more preferably between about 3 to 7 weeks, and even more preferably for about 4, 5, or 6 weeks. It will also be appreciated that the effective dosage of antibody, protein, or polypeptide used for treatment may increase or decrease over the course of a

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particular treatment. Changes in dosage may result and become apparent from the results of diagnostic assays as described herein.

The present invention encompasses agents which modulate expression or activity. An agent may, for example, be a small molecule. For example, such small molecules include, but are not limited to, peptides, peptidomimetics, amino acids, amino acid analogs, polynucleotides, polynucleotide analogs, nucleotides, nucleotide analogs, organic or inorganic compounds (i.e., including heteroorganic and organometallic compounds) having a molecular weight less than about 10,000 grams per mole, organic or inorganic compounds having a molecular weight less than about 5,000 grams per mole, organic or inorganic compounds having a molecular weight less than about 1000 grams per mole, organic or inorganic compounds having a molecular weight less than about 500 grams per mole, and salts, esters, and other pharmaceutically acceptable forms of such compounds.

It is understood that appropriate doses of small molecule agents depends upon a number of factors within the ken of the ordinarily skilled physician, 15 veterinarian, or researcher. The dose(s) of the small molecule will vary, for example, depending upon the identity, size, and condition of the subject or sample being treated, further depending upon the route by which the composition is to be administered, if applicable, and the effect which the practitioner desires the small 20 molecule to have upon the nucleic acid or polypeptide of the invention. Exemplary doses include milligram or microgram amounts of the small molecule per kilogram of subject or sample weight (e.g., about 1 microgram per kilogram to about 500 milligrams per kilogram, about 100 micrograms per kilogram to about 5 milligrams per kilogram, or about 1 microgram per kilogram to about 50 25 micrograms per kilogram. It is furthermore understood that appropriate doses of a small molecule depend upon the potency of the small molecule with respect to the expression or activity to be modulated. Such appropriate doses may be determined using the assays described herein. When one or more of these small molecules is to be administered to an animal (e.g., a human) in order to modulate expression or activity of a polypeptide or nucleic acid of the invention, a physician, veterinarian, 30 or researcher may, for example, prescribe a relatively low dose at first, subsequently increasing the dose until an appropriate response is obtained. In addition, it is understood that the specific dose level for any particular animal

subject will depend upon a variety of factors including the activity of the specific compound employed, the age, body weight, general health, gender, and diet of the subject, the time of administration, the route of administration, the rate of excretion, any drug combination, and the degree of expression or activity to be modulated.

A pharmaceutical composition of the invention is formulated to be compatible with its intended route of administration. Examples of routes of administration include parenteral, e.g., intravenous, intradermal, subcutaneous, oral (e.g., inhalation), transdermal (topical), transmucosal, and rectal administration. Solutions or suspensions used for parenteral, intradermal, or subcutaneous application can include the following components: a sterile diluent such as water for injection, saline solution, fixed oils, polyethylene glycols, glycerine, propylene glycol or other synthetic solvents; antibacterial agents such as benzyl alcohol or methyl parabens; antioxidants such as ascorbic acid or sodium bisulfite; chelating agents such as thylenediaminetetraacetic acid; buffers such as acetates, citrates or phosphates and agents for the adjustment of tonicity such as sodium chloride or dextrose. PH can be adjusted with acids or bases, such as hydrochloric acid or sodium hydroxide. The parenteral preparation can be enclosed in ampoules, disposable syringes, or multiple dose vials made of glass or plastic.

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Pharmaceutical compositions suitable for injectable use include sterile aqueous solutions (where water soluble) or dispersions and sterile powders for the extemporaneous preparation of sterile injectable solutions or dispersions. For intravenous administration, suitable carriers include physiological saline, bacteriostatic water, Cremophor EL9 (BASF; Parsippany, NJ), or phosphate buffered saline (PBS). In all cases, the composition must be sterile and should be fluid to the extent that easy syringability exists. It must be stable under the conditions of manufacture and storage and must be preserved against the contaminating action of microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi. The carrier can be a solvent or dispersion medium containing, for example, water, ethanol, polyol (for example, glycerol, propylene glycol, and liquid polyetheylene glycol, and the like), and suitable mixtures thereof. The proper fluidity can be maintained, for example, by the use of a coating such as lecithin, by the maintenance of the required particle size in the case of dispersion, and by the use of surfactants.

Prevention of the action of microorganisms can be achieved by various antibacterial and antifungal agents, for example, parabens, chlorobutanol, phenol, ascorbic acid, thimerosal, and the like. In many cases, it will be preferable to include isotonic agents, for example, sugars, polyalcohols such as mannitol, sorbitol, sodium chloride, in the composition. Prolonged absorption of the injectable compositions can be brought about by including in the composition an

agent that delays absorption, for example, aluminum monostearate and gelatin.

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Sterile injectable solutions can be prepared by incorporating the active compound (e.g., a GPCR-like protein or anti-GPCR-like antibody) in the required amount in an appropriate solvent with one or a combination of ingredients enumerated above, as required, followed by filtered sterilization. Generally, dispersions are prepared by incorporating the active compound into a sterile vehicle that contains a basic dispersion medium and the required other ingredients from those enumerated above. In the case of sterile powders for the preparation of sterile injectable solutions, the preferred methods of preparation are vacuum drying and freeze-drying, which yields a powder of the active ingredient plus any

additional desired ingredient from a previously sterile-filtered solution thereof.

Oral compositions generally include an inert diluent or an edible carrier. They can be enclosed in gelatin capsules or compressed into tablets. For the purpose of oral therapeutic administration, the active compound can be incorporated with excipients and used in the form of tablets, troches, or capsules. Oral compositions can also be prepared using a fluid carrier for use as a mouthwash, wherein the compound in the fluid carrier is applied orally and swished and expectorated or swallowed. Pharmaceutically compatible binding agents, and/or adjuvant materials can be included as part of the composition. The tablets, pills, capsules, troches and the like can contain any of the following ingredients, or compounds of a similar nature: a binder such as microcrystalline cellulose, gum tragacanth, or gelatin; an excipient such as starch or lactose, a disintegrating agent such as alginic acid. Primogel, or corn starch: a lubricant such as magnesium stearate or Sterotes; a glidant such as colloidal silicon dioxide; a sweetening agent such as sucrose or saccharin; or a flavoring agent such as peppermint, methyl salicylate, or orange flavoring. For administration by inhalation, the compounds are delivered in the form of an aerosol spray from a

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pressurized container or dispenser that contains a suitable propellant, e.g., a gas such as carbon dioxide, or a nebulizer.

Systemic administration can also be by transmucosal or transdermal means. For transmucosal or transdermal administration, penetrants appropriate to the barrier to be permeated are used in the formulation. Such penetrants are generally known in the art, and include, for example, for transmucosal administration, detergents, bile salts, and fusidic acid derivatives. Transmucosal administration can be accomplished through the use of nasal sprays or suppositories. For transdermal administration, the active compounds are formulated into ointments. 10 salves, gels, or creams as generally known in the art. The compounds can also be prepared in the form of suppositories (e.g., with conventional suppository bases such as cocoa butter and other glycerides) or retention enemas for rectal delivery.

In one embodiment, the active compounds are prepared with carriers that will protect the compound against rapid elimination from the body, such as a controlled release formulation, including implants and microencapsulated delivery systems. Biodegradable, biocompatible polymers can be used, such as ethylene vinyl acetate, polyanhydrides, polyglycolic acid, collagen, polyorthoesters, and polylactic acid. Methods for preparation of such formulations will be apparent to those skilled in the art. The materials can also be obtained commercially from Alza Corporation and Nova Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Liposomal suspensions (including liposomes targeted to infected cells with monoclonal antibodies to viral

antigens) can also be used as pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. These can be prepared according to methods known to those skilled in the art, for example, as

described in U.S. Patent No. 4,522,811.

It is especially advantageous to formulate oral or parenteral compositions in dosage unit form for ease of administration and uniformity of dosage. Dosage unit form as used herein refers to physically discrete units suited as unitary dosages for the subject to be treated with each unit containing a predetermined quantity of active compound calculated to produce the desired therapeutic effect in association with the required pharmaceutical carrier. Depending on the type and severity of the disease, about 1 µg/kg to about 15 mg/kg (e.g., 0.1 to 20 mg/kg) of antibody is an initial candidate dosage for administration to the patient, whether, for example, by one or more separate administrations, or by continuous infusion. A typical

daily dosage might range from about 1 µg/kg to about 100 mg/kg or more, depending on the factors mentioned above. For repeated administrations over several days or longer, depending on the condition, the treatment is sustained until a desired suppression of disease symptoms occurs. However, other dosage regimens may be useful. The progress of this therapy is easily monitored by conventional techniques and assays. An exemplary dosing regimen is disclosed in WO 94/04188. The specification for the dosage unit forms of the invention are dictated by and directly dependent on the unique characteristics of the active compound and the particular therapeutic effect to be achieved, and the limitations inherent in the art of compounding such an active compound for the treatment of individuals.

The nucleic acid molecules of the invention can be inserted into vectors and used as gene therapy vectors. Gene therapy vectors can be delivered to a subject by, for example, intravenous injection, local administration (U.S. Patent 5,328,470), or by stereotactic injection (see, e.g., Chen et al. (1994) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91:3054-3057). The pharmaceutical preparation of the gene therapy vector can include the gene therapy vector in an acceptable diluent, or can comprise a slow release matrix in which the gene delivery vector is inbedded. Alternatively, where the complete gene delivery vector can be produced intact from recombinant cells, e.g., retroviral vectors, the pharmaceutical preparation can include one or more cells which produce the gene delivery system.

The pharmaceutical compositions can be included in a container, pack, or dispenser together with instructions for administration.

V. Uses and Methods of the Invention

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The nucleic acid molecules, proteins, protein homologues, and antibodies described herein can be used in one or more of the following methods: (a) screening assays; (b) detection assays (e.g., chromosomal mapping, tissue typing, forensic biology); (c) predictive medicine (e.g., diagnostic assays, prognostic assays, monitoring clinical trials, and pharmacogenomics); and (d) methods of treatment (e.g., therapeutic and prophylactic). The isolated nucleic acid molecules of the invention can be used to express GPCR-like protein (e.g., via a recombinant expression vector in a host cell in gene therapy applications), to detect GPCR-like

mRNA (e.g., in a biological sample) or a genetic lesion in a GPCR-like gene, and to modulate GPCR-like activity. In addition, the GPCR-like proteins can be used to screen drugs or compounds that modulate the immune response as well as to treat disorders characterized by insufficient or excessive production of GPCR-like protein or production of GPCR-like protein forms that have decreased or aberrant activity compared to GPCR-like wild type protein. In addition, the anti-GPCR-like antibodies of the invention can be used to detect and isolate GPCR-like proteins and modulate GPCR-like activity.

A. Screening Assays

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The invention provides a method (also referred to herein as a "screening assay") for identifying modulators, i.e., candidate or test compounds or agents (e.g., peptides, peptidomimetics, small molecules, or other drugs) that bind to GPCR-like proteins or have a stimulatory or inhibitory effect on, for example, GPCR-like expression or GPCR-like activity.

The test compounds of the present invention can be obtained using any of the numerous approaches in combinatorial library methods known in the art, including biological libraries, spatially addressable parallel solid phase or solution phase libraries, synthetic library methods requiring deconvolution, the "one-bead one-compound" library method, and synthetic library methods using affinity chromatography selection. The biological library approach is limited to peptide libraries, while the other four approaches are applicable to peptide, nonpeptide oligomer, or small molecule libraries of compounds (Lam (1997) Anticancer Drug Des. 12:145).

Examples of methods for the synthesis of molecular libraries can be found in the art, for example in: DeWitt et al. (1993) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 90:6909; Erb et al. (1994) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91:11422; Zuckermann et al. (1994). J. Med. Chem. 37:2678; Cho et al. (1993) Science 261:1303; Carrell et al. (1994) Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl. 33:2059; Carell et al. (1994) Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl. 33:2061; and Gallop et al. (1994). J. Med. Chem. 37:1233.

Libraries of compounds may be presented in solution (e.g., Houghten (1992) Bio/Techniques 13:412-421), or on beads (Lam (1991) Nature 354:82-84), chips (Fodor (1993) Nature 364:555-556), bacteria (U.S. Patent No. 5,223,409),

spores (U.S. Patent Nos. 5,571,698; 5,403,484; and 5,223,409), plasmids (Cull et al. (1992) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89:1865-1869), or phage (Scott and Smith (1990) Science 249:386-390; Devlin (1990) Science 249:404-406; Cwirla et al. (1990) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 87:6378-6382; and Felici (1991) J. Mol. Biol. 5 222:301-310).

Determining the ability of the test compound to bind to the GPCR-like protein can be accomplished, for example, by coupling the test compound with a radioisotope or enzymatic label such that binding of the test compound to the GPCR-like protein or biologically active portion thereof can be determined by detecting the labeled compound in a complex. For example, test compounds can be labeled with ¹²⁵I, ³⁵S, ¹⁴C, or ³H, either directly or indirectly, and the radioisotope detected by direct counting of radioemmission or by scintillation counting. Alternatively, test compounds can be enzymatically labeled with, for example, horseradish peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase, or luciferase, and the enzymatic label detected by determination of conversion of an appropriate substrate to product.

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In a similar manner, one may determine the ability of the GPCR-like protein to bind to or interact with a GPCR-like target molecule. By "target molecule" is intended a molecule with which a GPCR-like protein binds or interacts in nature. In a preferred embodiment, the ability of the GPCR-like protein to bind to or interact with a GPCR-like target molecule can be determined by monitoring the activity of the target molecule. For example, the activity of the target molecule can be monitored by detecting induction of a cellular second messenger of the target (e.g., intracellular Ca²⁺, diacylglycerol, IP3, etc.), detecting catalytic/enzymatic activity of the target on an appropriate substrate, detecting the induction of a reporter gene (e.g., a GPCR-like-responsive regulatory element operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a detectable marker, e.g. luciferase), or detecting a cellular response, for example, cellular differentiation or cell proliferation.

In yet another embodiment, an assay of the present invention is a cell-free assay comprising contacting a GPCR-like protein or biologically active portion thereof with a test compound and determining the ability of the test compound to bind to the GPCR-like protein or biologically active portion thereof. Binding of

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the test compound to the GPCR-like protein can be determined either directly or indirectly as described above. In a preferred embodiment, the assay includes contacting the GPCR-like protein or biologically active portion thereof with a known compound that binds GPCR-like protein to form an assay mixture. contacting the assay mixture with a test compound, and determining the ability of the test compound to preferentially bind to GPCR-like protein or biologically active portion thereof as compared to the known compound.

In another embodiment, an assay is a cell-free assay comprising contacting GPCR-like protein or biologically active portion thereof with a test compound and 10 determining the ability of the test compound to modulate (e.g., stimulate or inhibit) the activity of the GPCR-like protein or biologically active portion thereof. Determining the ability of the test compound to modulate the activity of a GPCRlike protein can be accomplished, for example, by determining the ability of the GPCR-like protein to bind to a GPCR-like target molecule as described above for 15 determining direct binding. In an alternative embodiment, determining the ability of the test compound to modulate the activity of a GPCR-like protein can be accomplished by determining the ability of the GPCR-like protein to further modulate a GPCR-like target molecule. For example, the catalytic/enzymatic activity of the target molecule on an appropriate substrate can be determined as previously described.

In yet another embodiment, the cell-free assay comprises contacting the GPCR-like protein or biologically active portion thereof with a known compound that binds a GPCR-like protein to form an assay mixture, contacting the assay mixture with a test compound, and determining the ability of the test compound to preferentially bind to or modulate the activity of a GPCR-like target molecule.

In the above-mentioned assays, it may be desirable to immobilize either a GPCR-like protein or its target molecule to facilitate separation of complexed from uncomplexed forms of one or both of the proteins, as well as to accommodate automation of the assay. In one embodiment, a fusion protein can be provided that adds a domain that allows one or both of the proteins to be bound to a matrix. For example, glutathione-S-transferase/ GPCR-like fusion proteins or glutathione-Stransferase/target fusion proteins can be adsorbed onto glutathione sepharose beads (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO) or glutathione-derivatized microtitre plates,

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which are then combined with the test compound or the test compound and either the nonadsorbed target protein or GPCR-like protein, and the mixture incubated under conditions conducive to complex formation (e.g., at physiological conditions for salt and pH). Following incubation, the beads or microtitre plate wells are washed to remove any unbound components and complex formation is measured either directly or indirectly, for example, as described above. Alternatively, the complexes can be dissociated from the matrix, and the level of GPCR-like binding or activity determined using standard techniques.

Other techniques for immobilizing proteins on matrices can also be used in the screening assays of the invention. For example, either GPCR-like protein or its target molecule can be immobilized utilizing conjugation of biotin and streptavidin. Biotinylated GPCR-like molecules or target molecules can be prepared from biotin-NHS (N-hydroxy-succinimide) using techniques well known in the art (e.g., biotinylation kit, Pierce Chemicals, Rockford, IL), and immobilized in the wells of streptavidin-coated 96-well plates (Pierce Chemicals). Alternatively, antibodies reactive with a GPCR-like protein or target molecules but which do not interfere with binding of the GPCR-like protein to its target molecule can be derivatized to the wells of the plate, and unbound target or GPCR-like protein trapped in the wells by antibody conjugation. Methods for detecting such complexes, in addition to those described above for the GST-immobilized complexes, include immunodetection of complexes using antibodies reactive with the GPCR-like protein or target molecule, as well as enzyme-linked assays that rely on detecting an enzymatic activity associated with the GPCR-like protein or target molecule.

In another embodiment, modulators of GPCR-like expression are identified in a method in which a cell is contacted with a candidate compound and the expression of GPCR-like mRNA or protein in the cell is determined relative to expression of GPCR-like mRNA or protein in a cell in the absence of the candidate compound. When expression is greater (statistically significantly greater) in the presence of the candidate compound than in its absence, the candidate compound is identified as a stimulator of GPCR-like mRNA or protein expression.

Alternatively, when expression is less (statistically significantly less) in the presence of the candidate compound than in its absence, the candidate compound is

identified as an inhibitor of GPCR-like mRNA or protein expression. The level of GPCR-like mRNA or protein expression in the cells can be determined by methods described herein for detecting GPCR-like mRNA or protein.

In yet another aspect of the invention, the GPCR-like proteins can be used

as "bait proteins" in a two-hybrid assay or three-hybrid assay (see, e.g., U.S. Patent
No. 5,283,317; Zervos et al. (1993) Cell 72:223-232; Madura et al. (1993) J. Biol.
Chem. 268:12046-12054; Bartel et al. (1993) Bio/Techniques 14:920-924;
Iwabuchi et al. (1993) Oncogene 8:1693-1696; and PCT Publication No. WO
94/10300), to identify other proteins, which bind to or interact with GPCR-like
0 protein ("GPCR-like-binding proteins" or "GPCR-like-bp") and modulate GPCR-like activity. Such GPCR-like-binding proteins are also likely to be involved in the
propagation of signals by the GPCR-like proteins as, for example, upstream or
downstream elements of the GPCR-like pathway.

This invention further pertains to novel agents identified by the above-15 described screening assays and uses thereof for treatments as described herein.

B. Detection Assays

Portions or fragments of the cDNA sequences identified herein (and the corresponding complete gene sequences) can be used in numerous ways as

20 polynucleotide reagents. For example, these sequences can be used to: (1) map their respective genes on a chromosome; (2) identify an individual from a minute biological sample (tissue typing); and (3) aid in forensic identification of a biological sample. These applications are described in the subsections below.

Chromosome Mapping

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The isolated complete or partial GPCR-like gene sequences of the invention can be used to map their respective GPCR-like genes on a chromosome, thereby facilitating the location of gene regions associated with genetic disease. Computer analysis of GPCR-like sequences can be used to rapidly select PCR primers (preferably 15-25 bp in length) that do not span more than one exon in the genomic DNA, thereby simplifying the amplification process. These primers can then be used for PCR screening of somatic cell hybrids containing individual human chromosomes. Only those hybrids containing the human gene

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corresponding to the GPCR-like sequences will yield an amplified fragment.

Somatic cell hybrids are prepared by fusing somatic cells from different mammals (e.g., human and mouse cells). As hybrids of human and mouse cells grow and divide, they gradually lose human chromosomes in random order, but retain the mouse chromosomes. By using media in which mouse cells cannot grow (because they lack a particular enzyme), but in which human cells can, the one human chromosome that contains the gene encoding the needed enzyme will be retained. By using various media, panels of hybrid cell lines can be established. Each cell line in a panel contains either a single human chromosome or a small number of human chromosomes, and a full set of mouse chromosomes (D'Eustachio et al. (1983) Science 220:919-924). Somatic cell hybrids containing only fragments of human chromosomes can also be produced by using human chromosomes with translocations and deletions.

Other mapping strategies that can similarly be used to map a GPCR-like sequence to its chromosome include in situ hybridization (described in Fan et al. (1990) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 87:6223-27), pre-screening with labeled flow-sorted chromosomes, and pre-selection by hybridization to chromosome specific cDNA libraries. Furthermore, fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) of a DNA sequence to a metaphase chromosomal spread can be used to provide a precise chromosomal location in one step. For a review of this technique, see Verma et al. (1988) Human Chromosomes: A Manual of Basic Techniques (Pergamon Press, NY). The FISH technique can be used with a DNA sequence as short as 500 or 600 bases. However, clones larger than 1,000 bases have a higher likelihood of binding to a unique chromosomal location with sufficient signal intensity for simple detection. Preferably 1,000 bases, and more preferably 2,000 bases will suffice to set good results in a reasonable amount of time.

Reagents for chromosome mapping can be used individually to mark a single chromosome or a single site on that chromosome, or panels of reagents can be used for marking multiple sites and/or multiple chromosomes. Reagents corresponding to noncoding regions of the genes actually are preferred for mapping purposes. Coding sequences are more likely to be conserved within gene

families, thus increasing the chance of cross hybridizations during chromosomal mapping.

Another strategy to map the chromosomal location of GPCR-like genes uses GPCR-like polypeptides and fragments and sequences of the present invention and antibodies specific thereto. This mapping can be carried out by specifically detecting the presence of a GPCR-like polypeptide in members of a panel of somatic cell hybrids between cells of a first species of animal from which the protein originates and cells from a second species of animal and then determining which somatic cell hybrid(s) expresses the polypeptide and noting the chromosome(s) from the first species of animal that it contains. For examples of this technique, see Pajunen et al. (1988) Cytogenet. Cell Genet. 47:37-41 and Van Keuren et al. (1986) Hum. Genet. 74:34-40. Alternatively, the presence of a GPCR-like polypeptide in the somatic cell hybrids can be determined by assaying an activity or property of the polypeptide, for example, enzymatic activity, as described in Bordelon-Riser et al. (1979) Somatic Cell Genetics 5:597-613 and Owerbach et al. (1978) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 75:5640-5644.

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Once a sequence has been mapped to a precise chromosomal location, the physical position of the sequence on the chromosome can be correlated with genetic map data. (Such data are found, for example, in V. McKusick, Mendelian Inheritance in Man, available on-line through Johns Hopkins University Welch Medical Library). The relationship between genes and disease, mapped to the same chromosomal region, can then be identified through linkage analysis (co-inheritance of physically adjacent genes), described in, e.g., Egeland et al. (1987)

Nature 325:783-787.

Moreover, differences in the DNA sequences between individuals affected and unaffected with a disease associated with the GPCR-like gene can be determined. If a mutation is observed in some or all of the affected individuals but not in any unaffected individuals, then the mutation is likely to be the causative agent of the particular disease. Comparison of affected and unaffected individuals generally involves first looking for structural alterations in the chromosomes such as deletions or translocations that are visible from chromosome spreads or detectable using PCR based on that DNA sequence. Ultimately, complete

scquencing of genes from several individuals can be performed to confirm the presence of a mutation and to distinguish mutations from polymorphisms.

Tissue Typing

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The GPCR-like sequences of the present invention can also be used to identify individuals from minute biological samples. The United States military, for example, is considering the use of restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) for identification of its personnel. In this technique, an individual's genomic DNA is digested with one or more restriction enzymes and probed on a Southern blot to yield unique bands for identification. The sequences of the present invention are useful as additional DNA markers for RFLP (described, e.g., in U.S. Patent \$2,272,057).

Furthermore, the sequences of the present invention can be used to provide an alternative technique for determining the actual base-by-base DNA sequence of selected portions of an individual's genome. Thus, the GPCR-like sequences of the invention can be used to prepare two PCR primers from the 5' and 3' ends of the sequences. These primers can then be used to amplify an individual's DNA and subsequently sequence it.

Panels of corresponding DNA sequences from individuals, prepared in this manner, can provide unique individual identifications, as each individual will have a unique set of such DNA sequences due to allelic differences. The GPCR-like sequences of the invention uniquely represent portions of the human genome. Allelic variation occurs to some degree in the coding regions of these sequences, and to a greater degree in the noncoding regions. It is estimated that allelic variation between individual humans occurs with a frequency of about once per each 500 bases. Each of the sequences described herein can, to some degree, be used as a standard against which DNA from an individual can be compared for identification purposes. The noncoding sequences of a nucleotide sequence comprising the sequence shown SEQ ID NO:1 can comfortably provide positive individual identification with a panel of perhaps 10 to 1,000 primers that each yield a noncoding amplified sequence of 100 bases. If a predicted coding sequence, such as that in SEQ ID NO:1, is used, a more appropriate number of primers for positive individual identification would be 500 to 2,000.

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3. Use of Partial GPCR-like Sequences in Forensic Biology DNA-based identification techniques can also be used in forensic biology. In this manner, PCR technology can be used to amplify DNA sequences taken from very small biological samples such as tissues, e.g., hair or skin, or body fluids, e.g., blood, saliva, or semen found at a crime scene. The amplified sequence can then be compared to a standard, thereby allowing identification of the origin of the biological sample.

The sequences of the present invention can be used to provide polynucleotide reagents, e.g., PCR primers, targeted to specific loci in the human 10 genome, which can enhance the reliability of DNA-based forensic identifications by, for example, providing another "identification marker" that is unique to a particular individual. As mentioned above, actual base sequence information can be used for identification as an accurate alternative to patterns formed by restriction enzyme generated fragments. Sequences targeted to noncoding regions 15 of a sequence comprising the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 are particularly appropriate for this use as greater numbers of polymorphisms occur in the noncoding regions, making it easier to differentiate individuals using this technique. Examples of polynucleotide reagents include the GPCR-like sequences or portions thereof, e.g., fragments derived from the noncoding regions of 20 sequences comprising the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 having a length of at least 20 or 30 bases.

The GPCR-like sequences described herein can further be used to provide polynucleotide reagents, e.g., labeled or labelable probes that can be used in, for example, an *in situ* hybridization technique, to identify a specific tissue. This can be very useful in cases where a forensic pathologist is presented with a tissue of unknown origin. Panels of such GPCR-like probes, can be used to identify tissue by species and/or by organ type.

In a similar fashion, these reagents, e.g., GPCR-like primers or probes can

30 be used to screen tissue culture for contamination (i.e., screen for the presence of a
mixture of different types of cells in a culture).

C. Predictive Medicine

The present invention also pertains to the field of predictive medicine in which diagnostic assays, prognostic assays, pharmacogenomics, and monitoring clinical trails are used for prognostic (predictive) purposes to thereby treat an individual prophylactically. These applications are described in the subsections below.

Diagnostic Assays

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One aspect of the present invention relates to diagnostic assays for

detecting GPCR-like protein and/or nucleic acid expression as well as GPCR-like
activity, in the context of a biological sample. An exemplary method for detecting
the presence or absence of GPCR-like proteins in a biological sample involves
obtaining a biological sample from a test subject and contacting the biological
sample with a compound or an agent capable of detecting GPCR-like protein or

15 nucleic acid (e.g., mRNA, genomic DNA) that encodes GPCR-like protein such
that the presence of GPCR-like protein is detected in the biological sample.
Results obtained with a biological sample from the test subject may be compared
to results obtained with a biological sample from a control subject.

A preferred agent for detecting GPCR-like mRNA or genomic DNA is a labeled nucleic acid probe capable of hybridizing to GPCR-like mRNA or genomic DNA. The nucleic acid probe can be, for example, a full-length GPCR-like nucleic acid, such as the full-length sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, or a portion thereof, such as a nucleic acid nolecule of at least 15, 30, 50, 100, 250, or 500 nucleotides in length and sufficient to specifically hybridize under stringent conditions to GPCR-like mRNA or genomic DNA. Other suitable probes for use in the diagnostic assays of the invention are described herein.

A preferred agent for detecting GPCR-like protein is an antibody capable of binding to GPCR-like protein, preferably an antibody with a detectable label. Antibodies can be polyclonal, or more preferably, monoclonal. An intact antibody, or a fragment thereof (e.g., Fab or F(abN)₂) can be used. The term "labeled", with regard to the probe or antibody, is intended to encompass direct labeling of the probe or antibody by coupling (i.e., physically linking) a detectable substance to the probe or antibody, as well as indirect labeling of the probe or antibody by

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reactivity with another reagent that is directly labeled. Examples of indirect labeling include detection of a primary antibody using a fluorescently labeled secondary antibody and end-labeling of a DNA probe with biotin such that it can be detected with fluorescently labeled streptavidin.

The term "biological sample" is intended to include tissues, cells, and biological fluids isolated from a subject, as well as tissues, cells, and fluids present within a subject. That is, the detection method of the invention can be used to detect GPCR-like mRNA, protein, or genomic DNA in a biological sample in vitro as well as in vivo. For example, in vitro techniques for detection of GPCR-like mRNA include Northern hybridizations and in situ hybridizations. In vitro techniques for detection of GPCR-like protein include enzyme linked immunosorbent assays (ELISAs), Western blots, immunoprecipitations, and immunofluorescence. In vitro techniques for detection of GPCR-like genomic DNA include Southern hybridizations. Furthermore, in vivo techniques for detection of GPCR-like protein include introducing into a subject a labeled anti-GPCR-like antibody. For example, the antibody can be labeled with a radioactive marker whose presence and location in a subject can be detected by standard imaging techniques.

In one embodiment, the biological sample contains protein molecules from the test subject. Alternatively, the biological sample can contain mRNA molecules from the test subject or genomic DNA molecules from the test subject. Preferred biological samples are fibroblast samples, particularly dermal and lung fibroblasts, fibrotic samples, particularly liver fibrotic samples, and hepatic stellate cells isolated by conventional means from a subject.

The invention also encompasses kits for detecting the presence of GPCR-like proteins in a biological sample (a test sample). Such kits can be used to determine if a subject is suffering from or is at increased risk of developing a disorder associated with aberrant expression of GPCR-like protein (e.g., an immunological disorder). For example, the kit can comprise a labeled compound or agent capable of detecting GPCR-like protein or mRNA in a biological sample and means for determining the amount of a GPCR-like protein in the sample (e.g., an anti-GPCR-like antibody or an oligonucleotide probe that binds to DNA encoding a GPCR-like protein, e.g., SEQ ID NO:1). Kits can also include

instructions for observing that the tested subject is suffering from or is at risk of developing a disorder associated with aberrant expression of GPCR-like sequences if the amount of GPCR-like protein or mRNA is above or below a normal level.

For antibody-based kits, the kit can comprise, for example: (1) a first antibody (e.g., attached to a solid support) that binds to GPCR-like protein; and, optionally, (2) a second, different antibody that binds to GPCR-like protein or the first antibody and is conjugated to a detectable agent. For oligonucleotide-based kits, the kit can comprise, for example: (1) an oligonucleotide, e.g., a detectably labeled oligonucleotide, that hybridizes to a GPCR-like nucleic acid sequence or (2) a pair of primers useful for amplifying a GPCR-like nucleic acid molecule.

The kit can also comprise, e.g., a buffering agent, a preservative, or a protein stabilizing agent. The kit can also comprise components necessary for detecting the detectable agent (e.g., an enzyme or a substrate). The kit can also contain a control sample or a series of control samples that can be assayed and compared to the test sample contained. Each component of the kit is usually enclosed within an individual container, and all of the various containers are within a single package along with instructions for observing whether the tested subject is suffering from or is at risk of developing a disorder associated with aberrant expression of GPCR-like proteins.

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Other Diagnostic Assays

In another aspect, the invention features a method of analyzing a plurality of capture probes. The method can be used, e.g., to analyze gene expression. The method includes: providing a two dimensional array having a plurality of addresses, each address of the plurality being positionally distinguishable from each other address of the plurality, and each address of the plurality having a unique capture probe, e.g., a nucleic acid or peptide sequence; contacting the array with a GPCR-like nucleic acid, preferably purified, or antibody, and thereby evaluating the plurality of capture probes. Binding (e.g., in the case of a nucleic acid, hybridization) with a capture probe at an address of the plurality, is detected, e.g., by a signal generated from a label attached to the GPCR-like nucleic acid, polypeptide, or antibody. The capture

probes can be a set of nucleic acids from a selected sample, e.g., a sample of nucleic acids derived from a control or non-stimulated tissue or cell.

eic acids derived from a control or non-stimulated tissue or cell.

The method can include contacting the GPCR-like nucleic acid,

polypeptide, or antibody with a first array having a plurality of capture probes and a second array having a different plurality of capture probes. The results of each hybridization can be compared, e.g., to analyze differences in expression between a first and second sample. The first plurality of capture probes can be from a control sample, e.g., a wild type, normal, or non-diseased, non-stimulated, sample, e.g., a biological fluid, tissue, or cell sample. The second plurality of capture probes can be from an experimental sample, e.g., a mutant type, at risk, disease-state or disorder-state, or stimulated, sample, e.g., a biological fluid, tissue, or cell sample.

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The plurality of capture probes can be a plurality of nucleic acid probes each of which specifically hybridizes, with an allele of a GPCR-like sequence of the invention. Such methods can be used to diagnose a subject, e.g., to evaluate risk for a disease or disorder, to evaluate suitability of a selected treatment for a subject, to evaluate whether a subject has a disease or disorder. Thus, for example, the h15571 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 encodes a GPCR-like polypeptide that is associated with liver function, thus it is useful for evaluating liver disorders.

The method can be used to detect single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), as described below.

In another aspect, the invention features a method of analyzing a plurality of probes. The method is useful, e.g., for analyzing gene expression. The method includes: providing a two dimensional array having a plurality of addresses, each address of the plurality being positionally distinguishable from each other address of the plurality having a unique capture probe, e.g., wherein the capture probes are from a cell or subject which express a GPCR-like polypeptide of the invention or from a cell or subject in which a GPCR-like-mediated response has been elicited, e.g., by contact of the cell with a GPCR-like nucleic acid or protein of the invention, or administration to the cell or subject a GPCR-like nucleic acid or protein of the invention; contacting the array with one or more inquiry probes, wherein an inquiry probe can be a nucleic acid, polypeptide, or antibody (which is preferably other than a GPCR-like nucleic acid, polypeptide, or antibody of the invention); providing a two dimensional array having a plurality of addresses, each

address of the plurality being positionally distinguishable from each other address of the plurality, and each address of the plurality having a unique capture probe, e.g., wherein the capture probes are from a cell or subject which does not express a GPCR-like sequence of the invention (or does not express as highly as in the case of the GPCR-like positive plurality of capture probes) or from a cell or subject in which a GPCR-like-mediated response has not been elicited (or has been elicited to a lesser extent than in the first sample); contacting the array with one or more inquiry probes (which is preferably other than a GPCR-like nucleic acid, polypeptide, or antibody of the invention), and thereby evaluating the plurality of capture probes. Binding, e.g., in the case of a nucleic acid, hybridization, with a capture probe at an address of the plurality, is detected, e.g., by signal generated from a label attached to the nucleic acid, polypeptide, or antibody.

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In another aspect, the invention features a method of analyzing a GPCR-like sequence of the invention, e.g., analyzing structure, function, or relatedness to other nucleic acid or amino acid sequences. The method includes: providing a GPCR-like nucleic acid or amino acid sequence, e.g., the h15571 sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:2 or a portion thereof; comparing the GPCR-like sequence with one or more preferably a plurality of sequences from a collection of sequences, e.g., a nucleic acid or protein sequence database; to thereby analyze the GPCR-like sequence of the invention.

The method can include evaluating the sequence identity between a GPCR-like sequence of the invention, e.g., the h15571 sequence, and a database sequence. The method can be performed by accessing the database at a second site, e.g., over the internet.

In another aspect, the invention features, a set of oligonucleotides, useful, e.g., for identifying SNP's, or identifying specific alleles of a GPCR-like sequence of the invention, e.g., the h15571 sequence. The set includes a plurality of oligonucleotides, each of which has a different nucleotide at an interrogation position, e.g., an SNP or the site of a mutation. In a preferred embodiment, the oligonucleotides of the plurality identical in sequence with one another (except for differences in length). The oligonucleotides can be provided with differential labels, such that an oligonucleotides which hybridizes to one allele provides a

signal that is distinguishable from an oligonucleotides which hybridizes to a second allele

Prognostic Assays

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The methods described herein can furthermore be utilized as diagnostic or prognostic assays to identify subjects having or at risk of developing a disease or disorder associated with GPCR-like protein, GPCR-like nucleic acid expression, or GPCR-like activity. Prognostic assays can be used for prognostic or predictive purposes to thereby prophylactically treat an individual prior to the onset of a disorder characterized by or associated with GPCR-like protein, GPCR-like nucleic acid expression, or GPCR-like activity.

Thus, the present invention provides a method in which a test sample is obtained from a subject, and GPCR-like protein or nucleic acid (e.g., mRNA, genomic DNA) is detected, wherein the presence of GPCR-like protein or nucleic acid is diagnostic for a subject having or at risk of developing a disease or disorder associated with aberrant GPCR-like expression or activity. As used herein, a "test sample" refers to a biological sample obtained from a subject of interest. For example, a test sample can be a biological fluid (e.g., serum), cell sample, or tissue.

Furthermore, using the prognostic assays described herein, the present invention provides methods for determining whether a subject can be administered a specific agent (e.g., an agonist, antagonist, peptidomimetic, protein, peptide, nucleic acid, small molecule, or other drug candidate) or class of agents (e.g., agents of a type that decrease GPCR-like activity) to effectively treat a disease or disorder associated with aberrant GPCR-like expression or activity. In this manner, a test sample is obtained and GPCR-like protein or nucleic acid is detected. The presence of GPCR-like protein or nucleic acid is diagnostic for a subject that can be administered the agent to treat a disorder associated with aberrant GPCR-like expression or activity.

The methods of the invention can also be used to detect genetic lesions or mutations in a GPCR-like gene, thereby determining if a subject with the lesioned gene is at risk for a disorder characterized by aberrant cell proliferation and/or differentiation. In preferred embodiments, the methods include detecting, in a sample of cells from the subject, the presence or absence of a genetic lesion or

mutation characterized by at least one of an alteration affecting the integrity of a gene encoding a GPCR-like protein, or the misexpression of the GPCR-like gene. For example, such genetic lesions or mutations can be detected by ascertaining the existence of at least one of: (1) a deletion of one or more nucleotides from a GPCR-like gene; (2) an addition of one or more nucleotides to a GPCR-like gene; (3) a substitution of one or more nucleotides of a GPCR-like gene; (4) a chromosomal rearrangement of a GPCR-like gene; (5) an alteration in the level of a messenger RNA transcript of a GPCR-like gene; (6) an aberrant modification of a GPCR-like gene, such as of the methylation pattern of the genomic DNA; (7) the presence of a non-wild-type splicing pattern of a messenger RNA transcript of a 10 GPCR-like gene; (8) a non-wild-type level of a GPCR-like protein; (9) an allelic loss of a GPCR-like gene; and (10) an inappropriate post-translational modification of a GPCR-like protein. As described herein, there are a large number of assay techniques known in the art that can be used for detecting lesions in a GPCR-like gene. Any cell type or tissue, for example, hepatic stellate cells, dermal and lung 15 fibroblasts, fibrotic tissues, particularly fibrotic liver tissues, in which the GPCRlike proteins are expressed may be utilized in the prognostic assays described herein.

In certain embodiments, detection of the lesion involves the use of a probe/primer in a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) (see, e.g., U.S. Patent Nos. 4,683,195 and 4,683,202), such as anchor PCR or RACE PCR, or, alternatively, in a ligation chain reaction (LCR) (see, e.g., Landegran et al. (1988) Science 241:1077-1080; and Nakazawa et al. (1994) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91:360-364), the latter of which can be particularly useful for detecting point mutations in the GPCR-like gene (see, e.g., Abravaya et al. (1995) Nucleic Acids Res. 23:675-682). It is anticipated that PCR and/or LCR may be desirable to use as a preliminary amplification step in conjunction with any of the techniques used for detecting mutations described herein.

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Alternative amplification methods include self sustained sequence replication (Guatelli et al. (1990) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 87:1874-1878), transcriptional amplification system (Kwoh et al. (1989) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 86:1173-1177), Q-Beta Replicase (Lizardi et al. (1988) Bio/Technology 6:1197), or any other nucleic acid amplification method, followed by the detection

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of the amplified molecules using techniques well known to those of skill in the art.

These detection schemes are especially useful for the detection of nucleic acid
molecules if such molecules are present in very low numbers.

In an alternative embodiment, mutations in a GPCR-like gene from a sample cell can be identified by alterations in restriction enzyme cleavage patterns of isolated test sample and control DNA digested with one or more restriction endonucleases. Moreover, the use of sequence specific ribozymes (see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 5,498,531) can be used to score for the presence of specific mutations by development or loss of a ribozyme cleavage site.

In other embodiments, genetic mutations in a GPCR-like molecule can be identified by hybridizing a sample and control nucleic acids, e.g., DNA or RNA, to high density arrays containing hundreds or thousands of oligonucleotides probes (Cronin et al. (1996) Human Mutation 7:244-255; Kozal et al. (1996) Nature Medicine 2:753-759). In yet another embodiment, any of a variety of sequencing reactions known in the art can be used to directly sequence the GPCR-like gene and detect mutations by comparing the sequence of the sample GPCR-like gene with the corresponding wild-type (control) sequence. Examples of sequencing reactions include those based on techniques developed by Maxim and Gilbert ((1977) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 74:560) or Sanger ((1977) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 74:5463). It is also contemplated that any of a variety of automated sequencing procedures can be utilized when performing the diagnostic assays ((1995) Bio/Techniques 19:448), including sequencing by mass spectrometry (see, e.g., PCT Publication No. WO 94/16101; Cohen et al. (1996) Adv. Chromatogr. 36:127-162; and Griffin et al. (1993) Appl. Biochem. Biotechnol. 38:147-159). Other methods for detecting mutations in the GPCR-like gene include

methods in which protection from cleavage agents is used to detect mismatched bases in RNA/RNA or RNA/DNA heteroduplexes (Myers et al. (1985) Science 230:1242). See, also Cotton et al. (1988) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 85:4397; Saleeba et al. (1992) Methods Enzymol. 217:286-295. In a preferred embodiment, the control DNA or RNA can be labeled for detection.

In still another embodiment, the mismatch cleavage reaction employs one or more "DNA mismatch repair" enzymes that recognize mismatched base pairs in double-stranded DNA in defined systems for detecting and mapping point

mutations in GPCR-like cDNAs obtained from samples of cells. See, e.g., Hsu et al. (1994) Carcinogenesis 15:1657-1662. According to an exemplary embodiment, a probe based on a GPCR-like sequence, e.g., a wild-type GPCR-like sequence, is hybridized to a cDNA or other DNA product from a test cell(s). The duplex is treated with a DNA mismatch repair enzyme, and the cleavage products, if any, can be detected from electrophoresis protocols or the like. See, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 5, 459,039.

In other embodiments, alterations in electrophoretic mobility will be used to identify mutations in GPCR-like genes. For example, single-strand conformation polymorphism (SSCP) may be used to detect differences in electrophoretic mobility between mutant and wild-type nucleic acids (Orita et al. (1989) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 86:2766; see also Cotton (1993) Mutat. Res. 285:125-144; Hayashi (1992) Genet. Anal. Tech. Appl. 9:73-79). The sensitivity of the assay may be enhanced by using RNA (rather than DNA), in which the secondary structure is more sensitive to a change in sequence. In a preferred embodiment, the subject method utilizes heteroduplex analysis to separate double-stranded heteroduplex molecules on the basis of changes in electrophoretic

In yet another embodiment, the movement of mutant or wild-type fragments in polyacrylamide gels containing a gradient of denaturant is assayed using denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis (DGGE) (Myers et al. (1985) Nature 313:495). When DGGE is used as the method of analysis, DNA will be modified to insure that it does not completely denature, for example by adding a GC clamp of approximately 40 bp of high-melting GC-rich DNA by PCR. In a further embodiment, a temperature gradient is used in place of a denaturing gradient to identify differences in the mobility of control and sample DNA (Rosenbaum and Reissner (1987) Biophys. Chem. 265:12753).

mobility (Keen et al. (1991) Trends Genet. 7:5).

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Examples of other techniques for detecting point mutations include, but are not limited to, selective oligonucleotide hybridization, selective amplification, or selective primer extension. For example, oligonucleotide primers may be prepared in which the known mutation is placed centrally and then hybridized to target DNA under conditions that permit hybridization only if a perfect match is found (Saiki et al. (1986) Nature 324:163); Saiki et al. (1989) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA

86:6230). Such allele-specific oligonucleotides are hybridized to PCR-amplified target DNA or a number of different mutations when the oligonucleotides are attached to the hybridizing membrane and hybridized with labeled target DNA.

Alternatively, allele-specific amplification technology, which depends on selective PCR amplification, may be used in conjunction with the instant invention. 5 Oligonucleotides used as primers for specific amplification may carry the mutation of interest in the center of the molecule so that amplification depends on differential hybridization (Gibbs et al. (1989) Nucleic Acids Res. 17:2437-2448) or at the extreme 3' end of one primer where, under appropriate conditions, mismatch can prevent or reduce polymerase extension (Prossner (1993) Tibtech 11:238). In addition, it may be desirable to introduce a novel restriction site in the region of the mutation to create cleavage-based detection (Gasparini et al. (1992) Mol. Cell Probes 6:1). It is anticipated that in certain embodiments amplification may also be performed using Tag ligase for amplification (Barany (1991) Proc. Natl. Acad. 1.5 Sci. USA 88:189). In such cases, ligation will occur only if there is a perfect match at the 3' end of the 5' sequence making it possible to detect the presence of a known mutation at a specific site by looking for the presence or absence of amplification.

The methods described herein may be performed, for example, by utilizing prepackaged diagnostic kits comprising at least one probe nucleic acid or antibody reagent described herein, which may be conveniently used, e.g., in clinical settings to diagnosed patients exhibiting symptoms or family history of a disease or illness

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4. Pharmacogenomics

involving a GPCR-like gene.

Agents, or modulators that have a stimulatory or inhibitory effect on GPCR-like activity (e.g., GPCR-like gene expression) as identified by a screening assay described herein, can be administered to individuals to treat (prophylactically or therapeutically) disorders associated with aberrant GPCR-like activity as well as to modulate the phenotype of an immune response. In conjunction with such treatment, the pharmacogenomics (i.e., the study of the relationship between an individual's genotype and that individual's response to a foreign compound or

drug) of the individual may be considered. Differences in metabolism of therapeutics can lead to severe toxicity or therapeutic failure by altering the relation between dose and blood concentration of the pharmacologically active drug. Thus, the pharmacogenomics of the individual permits the selection of effective agents (e.g., drugs) for prophylactic or therapeutic treatments based on a consideration of the individual's genotype. Such pharmacogenomics can further be used to determine appropriate dosages and therapeutic regimens. Accordingly, the activity of GPCR-like protein, expression of GPCR-like nucleic acid, or mutation content of GPCR-like genes in an individual can be determined to thereby select appropriate agent(s) for therapeutic or prophylactic treatment of the individual.

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Pharmacogenomics deals with clinically significant hereditary variations in the response to drugs due to altered drug disposition and abnormal action in affected persons. See, e.g., Linder (1997) Clin. Chem. 43(2):254-266. In general, two types of pharmacogenetic conditions can be differentiated. Genetic conditions transmitted as a single factor altering the way drugs act on the body are referred to as "altered drug action." Genetic conditions transmitted as single factors altering the way the body acts on drugs are referred to as "altered drug metabolism". These pharmacogenetic conditions can occur either as rare defects or as polymorphisms. For example, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency (G6PD) is a common inherited enzymopathy in which the main clinical complication is haemolysis after ingestion of oxidant drugs (antimalarials, sulfonamides, analgesics, nitrofurans) and consumption of fava beans.

Differences in metabolism of therapeutics can lead to severe toxicity or therapeutic failure by altering the relation between dose and blood concentration of the pharmacologically active drug. Thus, a physician or clinician may consider applying knowledge obtained in relevant pharmacogenomics studies in determining whether to administer a GPCR-like molecule or GPCR-like modulator of the invention as well as tailoring the dosage and/or therapeutic regimen of treatment with a GPCR-like molecule or GPCR-like modulator of the invention.

One pharmacogenomics approach to identifying genes that predict drug response, known as "a genome-wide association", relies primarily on a high-resolution map of the human genome consisting of already known gene-related markers (e.g., a "bi-allelic" gene marker map which consists of 60,000-100,000

polymorphic or variable sites on the human genome, each of which has two variants.) Such a high-resolution genetic map can be compared to a map of the genome of each of a statistically significant number of patients taking part in a Phase II/III drug trial to identify markers associated with a particular observed drug response or side effect. Alternatively, such a high resolution map can be generated from a combination of some ten-million known single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in the human genome. As used herein, an "SNP" is a common alteration that occurs in a single nucleotide base in a stretch of DNA. For example, a SNP may occur once per every 1000 bases of DNA. A SNP may be involved in a disease process, however, the vast majority may not be disease-10 associated. Given a genetic map based on the occurrence of such SNPs, individuals can be grouped into genetic categories depending on a particular pattern of SNPs in their individual genome. In such a manner, treatment regimens can be tailored to groups of genetically similar individuals, taking into account traits that may be common among such genetically similar individuals. 15

Alternatively, a method termed the "candidate gene approach", can be utilized to identify genes that predict drug response. According to this method, if a gene that encodes a drug's target is known (e.g., a GPCR-like protein of the present invention), all common variants of that gene can be fairly easily identified in the population and it can be determined if having one version of the gene versus another is associated with a particular drug response.

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Alternatively, a method termed the "gene expression profiling", can be utilized to identify genes that predict drug response. For example, the gene expression of an animal dosed with a drug (e.g., a GPCR-like molecule or GPCR-like modulator of the present invention) can give an indication whether gene pathways related to toxicity have been turned on.

Information generated from more than one of the above pharmacogenomics approaches can be used to determine appropriate dosage and treatment regimens for prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of an individual. This knowledge, when applied to dosing or drug selection, can avoid adverse reactions or therapeutic failure and thus enhance therapeutic or prophylactic efficiency when treating a subject with a GPCR-like molecule or GPCR-like modulator of the invention, such

as a modulator identified by one of the exemplary screening assays described

The present invention further provides methods for identifying new agents, or combinations, that are based on identifying agents that modulate the activity of one or more of the gene products encoded by one or more of the GPCR-like genes of the present invention, wherein these products may be associated with resistance of the cells to a therapeutic agent. Specifically, the activity of the proteins encoded by the GPCR-like genes of the present invention can be used as a basis for identifying agents for overcoming agent resistance. By blocking the activity of one or more of the resistance proteins, target cells, e.g., hepatic stellate cells, will become sensitive to treatment with an agent that the unmodified target cells were resistant to.

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Monitoring the influence of agents (e.g., drugs) on the expression or activity of a GPCR-like protein can be applied in clinical trials. For example, the effectiveness of an agent determined by a screening assay as described herein to 15 increase GPCR-like gene expression, protein levels, or upregulate GPCR-like activity, can be monitored in clinical trials of subjects exhibiting decreased GPCRlike gene expression, protein levels, or downregulated GPCR-like activity. Alternatively, the effectiveness of an agent determined by a screening assay to decrease GPCR-like gene expression, protein levels, or downregulate GPCR-like 20 activity, can be monitored in clinical trials of subjects exhibiting increased GPCRlike gene expression, protein levels, or upregulated GPCR-like activity. In such clinical trials, the expression or activity of a GPCR-like gene, and preferably, other genes that have been implicated in, for example, a GPCR-like-associated disorder can be used as a "read out" or markers of the phenotype of a particular cell. 25

As an illustrative embodiment, the activity of drug metabolizing enzymes is a major determinant of both the intensity and duration of drug action. The discovery of genetic polymorphisms of drug metabolizing enzymes (e.g., Nacetyltransferase 2 (NAT 2) and cytochrome P450 enzymes CYP2D6 and CYP2C19) has provided an explanation as to why some patients do not obtain the expected drug effects or show exaggerated drug response and serious toxicity after taking the standard and safe dose of a drug. These polymorphisms are expressed in two phenotypes in the population, the extensive metabolizer (EM) and poor

metabolizer (PM). The prevalence of PM is different among different populations. For example, the gene coding for CYP2D6 is highly polymorphic and several mutations have been identified in PM, which all lead to the absence of functional CYP2D6. Poor metabolizers of CYP2D6 and CYP2C19 quite frequently

5 experience exaggerated drug response and side effects when they receive standard doses. If a metabolite is the active therapeutic moiety, a PM will show no therapeutic response, as demonstrated for the analgesic effect of codeine mediated by its CYP2D6-formed metabolite morphine. The other extreme are the so called ultra-rapid metabolizers who do not respond to standard doses. Recently, the molecular basis of ultra-rapid metabolism has been identified to be due to CYP2D6 gene amplification.

Thus, the activity of GPCR-like protein, expression of GPCR-like nucleic acid, or mutation content of GPCR-like genes in an individual can be determined to thereby select appropriate agent(s) for therapeutic or prophylactic treatment of the individual. In addition, pharmacogenetic studies can be used to apply genotyping of polymorphic alleles encoding drug-metabolizing enzymes to the identification of an individual's drug responsiveness phenotype. This knowledge, when applied to dosing or drug selection, can avoid adverse reactions or therapeutic failure and thus enhance therapeutic or prophylactic efficiency when treating a subject with a GPCR-like modulator, such as a modulator identified by one of the exemplary screening assays described herein.

5. Monitoring of Effects During Clinical Trials

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Monitoring the influence of agents (e.g., drugs, compounds) on the expression or activity of GPCR-like genes (e.g., the ability to modulate aberrant cell proliferation and/or differentiation) can be applied not only in basic drug screening but also in clinical trials. For example, the effectiveness of an agent, as determined by a screening assay as described herein, to increase or decrease GPCR-like gene expression, protein levels, or protein activity, can be monitored in clinical trials of subjects exhibiting decreased or increased GPCR-like gene expression, protein levels, or protein activity. In such clinical trials, GPCR-like expression or activity and preferably that of other genes that have been implicated

in for example, a cellular proliferation disorder, can be used as a marker of the immune responsiveness of a particular cell.

For example, and not by way of limitation, genes that are modulated in cells by treatment with an agent (e.g., compound, drug, or small molecule) that

5 modulates GPCR-like activity (e.g., as identified in a screening assay described herein) can be identified. Thus, to study the effect of agents on cellular proliferation disorders, for example, in a clinical trial, cells can be isolated and RNA prepared and analyzed for the levels of expression of GPCR-like genes and other genes implicated in the disorder. The levels of gene expression (i.e., a gene expression pattern) can be quantified by Northern blot analysis or RT-PCR, as described herein, or alternatively by measuring the amount of protein produced, by one of the methods as described herein, or by measuring the levels of activity of GPCR-like genes or other genes. In this way, the gene expression pattern can serve as a marker, indicative of the physiological response of the cells to the agent.

15 Accordingly, this response state may be determined before, and at various points during, treatment of the individual with the agent.

In a preferred embodiment, the present invention provides a method for monitoring the effectiveness of treatment of a subject with an agent (e.g., an agonist, antagonist, peptidomimetic, protein, peptide, nucleic acid, small molecule, 20 or other drug candidate identified by the screening assays described herein) comprising the steps of (1) obtaining a preadministration sample from a subject prior to administration of the agent; (2) detecting the level of expression of a GPCR-like protein, mRNA, or genomic DNA in the preadministration sample; (3) obtaining one or more postadministration samples from the subject; (4) detecting the level of expression or activity of the GPCR-like protein, mRNA, or genomic 25 DNA in the postadministration samples; (5) comparing the level of expression or activity of the GPCR-like protein, mRNA, or genomic DNA in the preadministration sample with the GPC GPCR-like R protein, mRNA, or genomic DNA in the postadministration sample or samples; and (vi) altering the administration of the agent to the subject accordingly to bring about the desired 30 effect, i.e., for example, an increase or a decrease in the expression or activity of a GPCR-like protein.

C. Methods of Treatment

The present invention provides for both prophylactic and therapeutic methods of treating a subject at risk of (or susceptible to) a disorder or having a disorder associated with aberrant GPCR-like expression or activity. Additionally,

- the compositions of the invention find use in modulating the treatment of disorders described herein. Thus, therapies for immune, inflammatory, hematologic, fibrotic, hepatic, and respiratory disorders; disorders associated with the following cells or tissues: lymph node; spleen; thymus; brain; lung; skeletal muscle; fetal liver; tonsil; colon; heart; liver; peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC); CD34*; bone marrow cells; neonatal umbilical cord blood (CB CD34*); leukocytes
- 0 CD34"; bone marrow cells; neonatal umbilical cord blood (CB CD34"); leukocytes from G-CSF treated patients (mPB leukocytes); CD14" cells; monocytes; hepatic stellate cells; fibrotic liver; kidney; spinal cord; and dermal and lung fibroblasts; are encompassed herein.

Prophylactic Methods

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In one aspect, the invention provides a method for preventing in a subject a disease or condition associated with an aberrant GPCR-like expression or activity by administering to the subject an agent that modulates GPCR-like expression or at least one GPCR-like gene activity. Subjects at risk for a disease that is caused, or contributed to, by aberrant GPCR-like expression or activity can be identified by, for example, any or a combination of diagnostic or prognostic assays as described herein. Administration of a prophylactic agent can occur prior to the manifestation of symptoms characteristic of the GPCR-like aberrancy, such that a disease or disorder is prevented or, alternatively, delayed in its progression. Depending on the type of GPCR-like aberrancy, for example, a GPCR-like agonist or GPCR-like antagonist agent can be used for treating the subject. The appropriate agent can be determined based on screening assays described herein.

Therapeutic Methods

Another aspect of the invention pertains to methods of modulating GPCRlike expression or activity for therapeutic purposes. The modulatory method of the invention involves contacting a cell with an agent that modulates one or more of the activities of GPCR-like protein activity associated with the cell. An agent that

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modulates GPCR-like protein activity can be an agent as described herein, such as a nucleic acid or a protein, a naturally-occurring cognate ligand of a GPCR-like protein, a peptide, a GPCR peptidomimetic, or other small molecule. In one embodiment, the agent stimulates one or more of the biological activities of GPCR-like protein. Examples of such stimulatory agents include active GPCR-like protein and a nucleic acid molecule encoding a GPCR-like protein that has been introduced into the cell. In another embodiment, the agent inhibits one or more of the biological activities of GPCR-like protein. Examples of such inhibitory agents include antisense GPCR-like nucleic acid molecules and anti-GPCR-like antibodies.

These modulatory methods can be performed in vitro (e.g., by culturing the cell with the agent) or, alternatively, in vivo (e.g., by administering the agent to a subject). As such, the present invention provides methods of treating an individual afflicted with a disease or disorder characterized by aberrant expression or activity of a GPCR-like protein or nucleic acid molecule. In one embodiment, the method involves administering an agent (e.g., an agent identified by a screening assay described herein), or a combination of agents, that modulates (e.g., upregulates or downregulates) GPCR-like expression or activity. In another embodiment, the method involves administering a GPCR-like protein or nucleic acid molecule as therapy to compensate for reduced or aberrant GPCR-like expression or activity.

Stimulation of GPCR activity is desirable in situations in which a GPCRlike protein is abnormally downregulated and/or in which increased GPCR-like activity is likely to have a beneficial effect. Conversely, inhibition of GPCR-like activity is desirable in situations in which GPCR-like activity is abnormally upregulated and/or in which decreased GPCR-like activity is likely to have a beneficial effect.

This invention is further illustrated by the following examples, which should not be construed as limiting.

EXPERIMENTAL

Example 1: Isolation of h15571

The clone h15571 was isolated from human thymus and spleen cDNA

libraries. The identified clone h15571 encodes a transcript of approximately 6.09

Kb (corresponding cDNA set forth in SEQ ID NO:1). Nucleotides 366-4014 of this transcript represent an open reading frame that encodes a predicted 1338 amino acid polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:2).

An analysis of the h15571 GPCR-like amino acid sequence for physicochemical chearacteristis, such as $\alpha\beta$ turn and coil regions, hydrophilicity, amphipathic regions, flexible regions, antigenic index, and surface probability plot, is shown in Figure 3.

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A search of the nucleotide and protein databases revealed that h15571 shares similarity with other sequences, primarily in the C-terminal portion. The closest similarity resides with human cDNA DKFZp434C211 (GenBank 15 Accession No. AL110244). Nucleotides 2986-5685 of SEQ ID NO:1 share approximately 99.4% sequence identity with this cDNA, as determined by global pairwise alignment. This cDNA encodes a hypothetical uncharacterized protein (GenBank Accession No. CAB53694, having 100% identity with amino acid 20 residues 999-1338 of SEO ID NO:2, the protein encoded by h15571, as determined by local pairwise alignment (BESTFIT). Local pairwise alignment (using BESTFIT) of the h15571 polypeptide indicates this protein shares sequence similarity to other GPCR proteins. Specifically, amino acid residues 695-944 of SEQ ID NO:2 share approximately 41.6% similarity and 30.5% identity with amino acid residues 2411-2646 of a mouse seven-pass transmembrane receptor 25 precursor (GenBank Accession No. AAC68836); amino acid residues 689-946 of SEO ID NO:2 share approximately 37.7% similarity and 30.5% identity with human MEGF2, a seven-pass transmembrane protein (GenBank Accession No. BAA32464); and amino acid residues 703-946 of SEO ID NO:2 share 30 approximately 37.8% similarity and 25.2% identity with amino acid residues 703-946 of rat MEGF2, a seven-pass transmembrane protein (GenBank Accession No. ABB32459).

Example 2: h15571 Expression Analysis

Total RNA was prepared from various human tissues by a single step extraction method using RNA STAT-60 according to the manufacturer's

instructions (TeITest, Inc). Each RNA preparation was treated with DNase I (Ambion) at 37°C for I hour. DNAse I treatment was determined to be complete if the sample required at least 38 PCR amplification cycles to reach a threshold level of flourescence using β-2 microglobulin as an internal amplicon reference. The integrity of the RNA samples following DNase I treatment was confirmed by agarose gel electrophoresis and ethidium bromide staining.

After phenol extraction, cDNA was prepared from the sample using the SUPERSCRIPT™ Choice System following the manufacturer's instructions (GibcoBRL). A negative control of RNA without reverse transcriptase was mock reverse transcribed for each RNA sample.

Expression of the novel h15571 GPCR-like gene sequence was measured 15 by TagMan® quantitative PCR (Perkin Elmer Applied Biosystems) in cDNA prepared from the following normal human tissues: lymph node, spleen, thymus, brain, lung, skeletal muscle, fetal liver, tonsil, colon, heart, and normal and fibrotic liver: the following primary cells: resting and phytohemaglutinin (PHA) activated 20 peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC); resting and PHA activated CD3⁺ cells, CD4+ and CD8+ T cells; Th1 and Th2 cells stimulated for six or 48 hours with anti-CD3 antibody; resting and lipopolysaccharide (LPS) activated CD19⁺ B cells; resting and LPS activated CD19+ cells from tonsil; CD34+ cells from mobilized peripheral blood (mPB CD34⁺), adult resting bone marrow (ABM CD34⁺), G-CSF mobilized bone marrow (mBM CD34⁺), and neonatal umbilical 25 cord blood (CB CD34⁺); G-CSF mobilized peripheral blood leukocytes (mPB leukocytes) and CD34° cells purified from mPB leukocytes (mPB CD34°); CD14* cells; granulocytes; hepatic stellate cells maintained in serum-free or fetal bovine serum (FBS) containing medium; resting and activated (phorbol 12-myristate 13acetate (TPA) and ionomycin) normal human liver hepatocytes (NHLH); and 30 fibroblasts (NHDF, normal human dermal fibroblasts; NHLF, normal human lung fibroblasts) mock stimulated or stimulated with transforming growth factor β (TGF-β). Transformed human cell lines included K526, an erythroleukemia;

HL60, an acute promyelocytic leukemia; Jurkat, a T cell leukemia; HEK 293, epithelial cells from embryonic kidney transformed with adenovirus 5 DNA; and Hep3B hepatocellular liver carcinoma cells cultured in normal (HepB normoxia) or reduced oxygen tension (Hep3B hypoxia), or mock stimulated or stimulated with

5 TGF-B.

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(SEQ ID NO:8)

Probes were designed by PrimerExpress software (PE Biosystems) based on the h15571 sequence. The primers and probes for expression analysis of h15571 and β-2 microglobulin were as follows:

- 10 h15571 Forward Primer GCATCACAGCTGCAGTCAACA (SEQ ID NO:3) h15571 Reverse Primer GCCACACCAGCCAGCAGTA (SEQ ID NO:4) h15571 TaqMan Probe CCACAACTACCGGGACCACAGCCC (SEQ ID NO:5)
- β-2 microglobulin Forward Primer CACCCCACTGAAAAAGATGA (SEQ ID NO:6)
 β-2 microglobulin Reverse Primer (SEQ ID NO:7)
 β-2 microglobulin TaoMan Probe TATGCCTGCCGTGTGAACCACGTG

 TATGCCTGCCGTGTGAACCACGTG

The h15571 sequence probe was labeled using FAM (6-carboxyfluorescein), and the β2-microglobulin reference probe was labeled with a 25 different fluorescent dye, VIC. The differential labeling of the target GPCR-like sequence and internal reference gene thus enabled measurement in the same well. Forward and reverse primers and the probes for both β2-microglobulin and the target h15571 sequence were added to the TaqMan® Universal PCR Master Mix (PE Applied Biosystems). Although the final concentration of primer and probe 30 could vary, each was internally consistent within a given experiment. A typical experiment contained 200nM of forward and reverse primers plus 100 nM probe for β-2 microglobulin and 600 nM forward and reverse primers plus 200 nM probe for the target h15571 sequence. TaqMan matrix experiments were carried out on an ABI PRISM 7700 Sequence Detection System (PE Applied Biosystems). The

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95°C, followed by two-step PCR for 40 cycles of 95°C for 15 sec followed by 60°C for 1 min.

The following method was used to quantitatively calculate h15571 expression in the various tissues relative to β -2 microglobulin expression in the same tissue. The threshold cycle (Ct) value is defined as the cycle at which a statistically significant increase in fluorescence is detected. A lower Ct value is indicative of a higher mRNA concentration. The Ct value of the h15571 sequence is normalized by subtracting the Ct value of the β -2 microglobulin gene to obtain a $_{\delta}$ Ct value using the following formula: $_{\delta}$ Ct=Ct_h15571 = Ct $_{\beta$ -2 microglobulin. Expression is then calibrated against a cDNA sample showing a comparatively low level of expression of the h15571 sequence. The $_{\delta}$ Ct value for the calibrator sample is then subtracted from $_{\delta}$ Ct for each tissue sample according to the following formula: $_{\delta}$ Ct= $_{\delta}$ Ct- $_{\delta}$ minple - $_{\delta}$ Ct- $_{\delta}$ C

Figure 4 shows expression of h15571 as determined in a broad panel of tissues and cell lines as described above, relative to expression in CD3+T cells. The results indicate significant expression in lung, skeletal muscle, colon, fibrotic liver, and the K562 cell line; moderate expression in brain, and in the HEK 293 and Jurkat cell lines; and low level expression in lymph node, spleen, thymus, fetal liver, tonsil, heart, normal liver, and CB CD34+cells.

Figure 5 shows expression of h15571 in various tissues and cell lines as described above, relative to expression in CD3* resting cells. The results indicate significant expression in normal human dermal and lung fibroblasts, and in hepatic stellate cells, which are involved in liver fibrosis.

The high expression observed in fibrotic liver samples was reexamined in a comparison of h15571 expression in thirteen fibrotic liver samples against six normal liver samples (see Figure 6). The six samples taken from patients with no histological or clinical evidence of liver disease showed minimal expression of h15571. The thirteen samples from patients with histologically defined liver fibrosis, of mixed aetologies including chronic alcohol induced fibrosis,

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cryptogenic cirrhosis and primary biliary disease, showed upregulation of h15571 to differing degrees.

Isolated cells from this study were used to localize the expression of h15571 to the component cells of the liver or infiltrating inflammatory cells. h15571 expression was seen to be restricted to stellate cells and fibroblasts (NHDF=normal human dermal fibroblasts; NHLF = normal human lung fibroblasts). Activation with either transforming growth factor \(\begin{align*} \text{TGF-8} \) or fetal bovine serum (FBS) was seen to further increase the expression of h15571 in these cells (Figure 7).

The upregulation of h15571 in fibrotic liver samples, and the apparent localization of h15571 expression to activated stellate cells was examined further using similar TaqMan[®] PCR assays. Figure 8 shows expression of h15571 as determined in several tissue and hepatic stellate cell samples relative to expression in hepatocytes 24 hours post-treatment with TGF (Hep-3 cells). Expression is clearly elevated in the human liver fibrotic samples, with low-level expression seen in human heart tissue, and nondetectable expression in normal human liver, brain, and kidney tissues. Furthermore, h15571 is not expressed in normal hepatocytes and those treated with PMA or TGF-β. Relative expression within hepatic stellate cells depends upon their physiological state. Thus, quiescent stellate cells show background levels of expression, while passaged stellate (fully activated stellate cells that have been exposed to prolonged culture), resting stellate, and stellate cells reactivated from their resting state with fetal bovine serum (FBS) have high levels of expression.

Elevated expression levels in human liver fibrotic samples and in activated stellate cells indicates a potential role for h15571 in liver fibrosis. This potential role was examined further using rats and three models of liver fibrosis: bile duct ligation (see Kossakowska et al. (1998) Amer. J. Pathol. 153 (6): 1895), a surgical-base model; porcine serum injection (Paronetto and Popper (1966) Amer. J. Pathol. 49:1087, an immunological-based model; and carbon tetrachloride (CCL4) treatment, a toxicity-based model. Figure 9 shows expression of rat 15571 as determined in several tissues. Significant expression is seen in brain and lung samples, and moderate expression in spinal cord samples. However, expression in normal liver, spleen, kidney, small intestine, and muscle samples is low or even

nondetectable. Relative to normal liver, h15571 expression is elevated in rats that have undergone sham operation (i.e., control rats that have been exposed to surgical procedures such as anesthesia, but without bile duct ligation), and markedly elevated in livers of rats having their bile duct ligated for 14 days. Also, expression is elevated in fibrotic livers from rats treated with porcine serum for 7 weeks at 24 hours following the last injection of serum, though the effect is less dramatic than that seen with bile duct ligation.

Figure 10 shows expression of rat 15571 in rat liver samples from rats treated with CCL4. This toxicity-based model indicates variable expression, but no clear demonstration of upregulation of the h15571 gene.

In summary, these TaqMan assays reveal significant expression of h15571 in human lung, brain, skeletal muscle, colon, heart, and more particularly in liver fibrosis biopsies. Expression is high in activated hepatic stellate cells, TGF-beta-treated normal human lung fibroblasts, and TGF-beta-treated normal human dermal fibroblasts. Of particular significance is the low expression in normal human liver and nondetectable expression in normal human hepatocytes. Two rat models of liver fibrosis confirm that expression of this gene is elevated in the fibrotic liver tissues from treated animals relative to untreated control animals.

The h15571 protein, a secretin-like/GPCR-like protein, has restricted expression so that high levels of mRNA are detected only in activated hepatic stellate cells, not quiescent cells. Expression in fibrotic livers is elevated as compared to normal livers, and is undetectable in normal human hepatocytes and activated hepatocytes. These data indicate a role for h15571 in the process of fibrosis of the liver.

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Example 3: In Situ Expression of h15571

Expression of h15571 was also examined by in situ hybridization of riboprobes to cellular mRNAs in the following human tissues: normal liver, fibrotic liver, normal fetal liver, kidney, colon adenocarcinoma, lung, and skeletal muscle. Sense and antisense riboprobes (RNA transcripts) of cDNA encoding h15571 were generated using ³⁵S-dUTP, T3 polymerase, and T7 polymerase, and standard in vitro transcription reaction reasents.

Six µm sections of cryopreserved human tissue were prepared using a cryostat and annealed to glass slides, pre-hybed and hybridized to sense and antisense h15771 riboprobes according to standard protocols. Slides containing hybridized tissues and riboprobes were washed extensively (according to standard procedures), dipped in NTB-2 photoemulsion, and were allowed to expose for two weeks. Slides were developed and counterstained with hematoxylin to assist in identifying different subtypes of leukocytes. Data were recorded as pictures of these tissue sections as visualized under a microscope using bright and dark fields. The data from two separate experiments are summarized in Table I below.

High levels of h15571 expression were detected in some fibrotic adult livers and in skeletal muscle in two separate experiments. In those fibrotic liver samples exhibiting h15571 expression, activity was consistently detected in mesenchymal cells bordering fibrotic septae.

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More specifically, expression of h15571 appears to be localized within activated stellate cells. These stellate cells are a type of myofibroblast believed to mediate the architectural changes that cause liver fibrosis. Thus activated stellate cells cause liver fibrosis, and it is these cells that express high levels of h15571 in liver fibrotic samples. No expression of h15571 was detected in tissue from:

normal liver, normal fetal liver, kidney, colon adenocarcinoma, and lung.

The significant and remarkably consistent expression of h15571 in skeletal muscle is an indication of the relatedness of skeletal muscle cells and stellate cells. Myofibroblasts represent a cell type that shares properties with smooth muscle, such as contractability. Both types of cells/tissues express the protein alpha-actin, a mediator of contractability. Changes in this property may contribute to liver fibrosis.

Table 1. Expression Analysis of Human 15571 by In Situ Hybridization

Tissue	h15571	Comments								
Normal Liver (NDR45)	-									
Normal Liver (NDR154)										
Fibrotic Liver (NDR112)	-									
Fibrotic Liver (NDR113)	-									
Fibrotic Liver (NDR126)	-									
Fibrotic Liver (NDR141)	-									
Fibrotic Liver (NDR190)	-									
Fibrotic Liver (NDR191)	+	Specific hybridization observed on mesenchymal cells bordering fibrotic septae.								
Fibrotic Liver (NDR192)	+	Specific hybridization observed on mesenchymal cells bordering fibrotic septae.								
Fibrotic Liver (NDR193)	+	Specific hybridization observed on mesenchymal cells bordering fibrotic septae.								
Fibrotic Liver (NDR194)	-									
Fibrotic Liver (NDR195)	-									
Fibrotic Liver (NDR204)	+	Specific hybridization observed on mesenchymal cells bordering fibrotic septae.								
Fibrotic Liver (NDR225)	-									
Normal Fetal Liver (BWH54)	-									
Normal Skeletal Muscle (PIT201)	+									
Normal Kidney (NDR169)	-									
Normal Lung (NDR44)	-									
Colon adenocarcinoma (NDR99)	-									

All publications and patent applications mentioned in the specification are indicative of the level of those skilled in the art to which this invention pertains.

5 All publications and patent applications are herein incorporated by reference to the same extent as if each individual publication or patent application was specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference.

Those skilled in the art will recognize, or be able to ascertain using no more than routine experimentation, many equivalents to the specific embodiments of the invention described herein. Such equivalents are intended to be encompassed by the following claims.

Applicant's or agent's		International application No.	ı
file reference	5800-48A-1	PCT/US00/	

INDICATIONS RELATING TO DEPOSITED MICROORGANISM OR OTHER BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL

(PCT Rule 13bis)

A. The indications made below relate to the deposited microorganism	or other biological material referred to in the description on page 4, line 2										
B. IDENTIFICATION OF DEPOSIT	Further deposits are identified on an additional sheet										
Name of depository institution American Type Culture Collection	1										
Address of depositary institution (including postal code and country)											
10801 University Blvd. Manassas, VA 20110-2209	US										
Date of deposit 05 April 2000 (05.04.00)	Accession Number PTA-1660										
C. ADDITIONAL INDICATIONS (leave blank if not applicable)	This information is continued on an additional sheet										
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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

 An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a nucleoic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 45% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660, or a complement thereof;
 - a nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of at least 15 nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660, or a complement thereof;
 - c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660
 - d) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous
- 20 Deposit Number PTA-1660, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguou amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2 or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660, and
- e) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660, wherein the nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof under stringent conditions.

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2. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which is selected from the group consisting of:

 a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660, or a complement thereof; and

- b) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising 5 the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660.
- The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising vector
 nucleic acid sequences.
 - The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 further comprising nucleic acid sequences encoding a heterologous polypeptide.
 - A host cell which contains the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

- 6. The host cell of claim 5 which is a mammalian host cell.
- A nonhuman mammalian host cell containing the nucleic acid
 molecule of claim 1.
 - 8. An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the 25 plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660:
- a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the
 amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the
 cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA 1660, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which

hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof under stringent conditions; and

- c) a polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 45% identical to a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof.
- The isolated polypeptide of claim 8 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660.

 The polypeptide of claim 8 further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

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- An antibody which selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 8.
- A method for producing a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660;
 - b) a polypeptide comprising a fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660; and
 - c) a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof under stringent conditions; comprising culturing the host cell of claim 5 under conditions in which the nucleic acid molecule is expressed.

 The method of claim 12 wherein said polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEO ID NO:2.

- 5 14. A method for detecting the presence of a polypeptide of claim 8 in a sample, comprising:
 - a) contacting the sample with a compound which selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 8; and
- b) determining whether the compound binds to the polypeptide in the
 sample.
 - 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the compound which binds to the polypeptide is an antibody.
- 15 16. A kit comprising a compound which selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 8 and instructions for use.

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- 17. A method for detecting the presence of a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 in a sample, comprising the steps of:
- a) contacting the sample with a nucleic acid probe or primer which selectively hybridizes to the nucleic acid molecule; and
 - determining whether the nucleic acid probe or primer binds to a nucleic acid molecule in the sample.
- 25 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the sample comprises mRNA molecules and is contacted with a nucleic acid probe.
 - A kit comprising a compound which selectively hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 and instructions for use.

20. A method for identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide of claim 8 comprising the steps of:

 a) contacting a polypeptide, or a cell expressing a polypeptide of claim 8 with a test compound; and

- b) determining whether the polypeptide binds to the test compound.
- 5 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the binding of the test compound to the polypeptide is detected by a method selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) detection of binding by direct detecting of test compound/polypeptide binding;
 - detection of binding using a competition binding assay;
- 10 c) detection of binding using an assay for GPCR-like-mediated signal transduction
- A method for modulating the activity of a polypeptide of claim 8
 comprising contacting a polypeptide or a cell expressing a polypeptide of claim 8

 with a compound which binds to the polypeptide in a sufficient concentration to modulate the activity of the polypeptide.
 - 23. A method for identifying a compound which modulates the activity of a polypeptide of claim 8, comprising:
 - a) contacting a polypeptide of claim 8 with a test compound; and

- b) determining the effect of the test compound on the activity of the
 polypeptide to thereby identify a compound which modulates the activity of the
 polypeptide.
- 25 24. A method for identifying an agent that modulates the level of expression of the nucleic acid molecules of claim1 in a cell, said method comprising contacting said agent with the cell capable of expressing said nucleic acid molecule such that said nucleic acid molecule level or activity can be modulated in said cell by said agent and measuring said nucleic acid molecule
 - 25. A method for modulating the level of expression of the nucleic acid molecules of claim 1, said method comprising contacting said nucleic acid

molecule with an agent under conditions that allow the agent to modulate the level or activity of the nucleic acid molecule.

- A pharmaceutical composition containing any of the polypeptides in
 claim 8 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
 - 27. A method of treating a patient afflicted with a disorder associated with aberrant activity or expression of a protein, the method comprising administering to the patient a compound which modulates the activity of said protein in an amount effective to modulate the activity of the protein in the patient, whereby at least one symptom of the disorder is alleviated, wherein said protein has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660;

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- b) the amino acid sequence of a naturally occurring allelic variant of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660, wherein the sequence of the allelic variant is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof under stringent conditions.
 - 28. The method of claim 27, wherein said disorder is liver fibrosis.
- 25 29. A method of treating a patient afflicted with a disorder associated with aberrant activity or expression of a protein, the method comprising administering to the patient, in an amount effective to modulate the activity of the protein in the patient, a compound selected from the group consisting of the protein, a nucleic acid encoding the protein, and an antisense nucleic acid which is capable of annealing with either of an mRNA encoding the protein and a portion of a genomic DNA encoding the protein, whereby at least one symptom of the disorder is alleviated, wherein said protein has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

 a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with as Patent Denosit Number PTA-1660:

b) the amino acid sequence of a naturally occurring allelic variant of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660, wherein the sequence of the allelic variant is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof under stringent conditions.

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- 30. A method of diagnosing a disorder associated with aberrant activity or expression of a protein in a patient, the method comprising assessing the level of expression of a gene encoding said protein in the patient and comparing the level of expression of said gene with the normal level of expression of said gene in a human not afflicted with the disorder, whereby a difference between the level of expression of said gene in the patient and the normal level of expression is an indication that the patient is afflicted with the disorder, wherein said protein has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Denosit Number PTA-1660:
- b) the amino acid sequence of a naturally occurring allelic variant of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660, wherein the sequence of the allelic variant is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof under stringent conditions.
- 31. A method of treating a patient afflicted with a disorder related to a protein, the method comprising administering to the patient a compound which modulates the activity of said protein in an amount effective to modulate the activity of the protein in the patient, whereby at least one symptom of the disorder

is alleviated, wherein said protein has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660;
- b) the amino acid sequence of a naturally occurring allelic variant of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660, wherein the sequence of the allelic variant is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof under stringent conditions.
- 32. A method of treating a patient afflicted with a disorder related to a protein, the method comprising administering to the patient, in an amount effective to modulate the activity of the protein in the patient, a compound selected from the group consisting of the protein, a nucleic acid encoding the protein, and an antisense nucleic acid which is capable of annealing with either of an mRNA encoding the protein and a portion of a genomic DNA encoding the protein, whereby at least one symptom of the disorder is alleviated, wherein said protein has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660;
- b) the amino acid sequence of a naturally occurring allelic variant of 25 the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660, wherein the sequence of the allelic variant is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof under stringent conditions.

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33. A method of diagnosing a disorder related to a protein in a patient, the method comprising assessing the level of expression of a gene encoding said protein in the patient and comparing the level of expression of said gene with the

normal level of expression of said gene in a human not afflicted with the disorder, whereby a difference between the level of expression of said gene in the patient and the normal level of expression is an indication that the patient is afflicted with the disorder, wherein said protein has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660:
- b) the amino acid sequence of a naturally occurring allelic variant of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1660, wherein the sequence of the allelic variant is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof under stringent conditions.

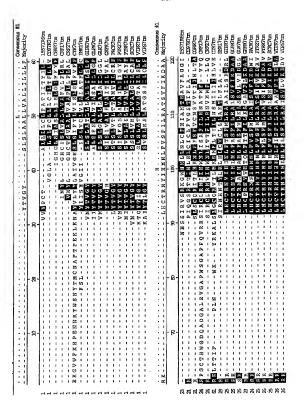
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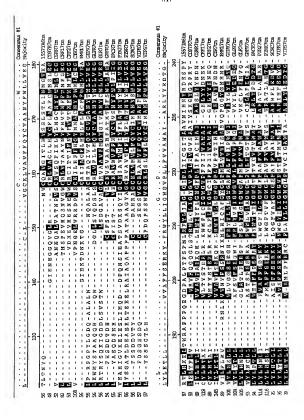
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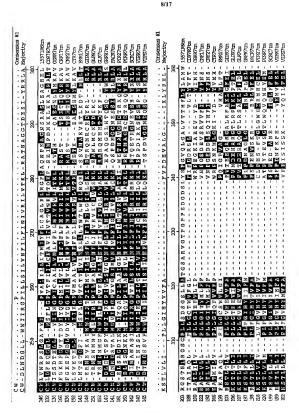
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CCG CTG GCT CTG GGC CCC TGC AAG CTC ACC AAC CTG CAG CTG GCC CAG AGT CAG GTG TGC 3441 AAGGEGEPEPAGTRGN 1167 GAG GOG GOG GOG GOC GOC GOC GOG GAA GAA GAA CAG COG GAG COG GOC ACC COG GGA AAC 3501 LAHRHPNNVHHGRRAHKSRA1187 CTC GOC CAC CGC CAC CCC AAC AAC AAC GTG CAC CAC GGG CGT CGG GCG CAC AAG AGC CGG GCC 3561 K G H R A G E A C G K N R L K A L R G G 1207 AMS GGA CAC CGC GCG GGG GAG GCC TGC GGC AMS AAC CGG CTC AAG GCC CTG CGC GGG GGC 3621 A A G A L E L L S S E S G S L H N S P GCG GCG GCG GCG CTG GAG CTG CTG TCC AGC GAG AGC GCC AGT CTG CAC AAC AGC CCC ACC 3681 D S Y L G S S R N S P G A G L Q L E G E 1247 PMLTPSEGSDTSAAPLSEAG 1267 RAGQRRSASRDSLKGGGALE 1287 COG GCA GOC CAG COC COC AGC GOC AGC COC GAC AGT CTC AAG GOC GOC GOC GCG CTG GAG 3861 KESHRRSYPLNAASLNGAPK 1307 AND GAG AGC CAT CGC CGC TCG TAC CCG CTC AAC GCC GCC AGC CTA AAC GGC GCC CCC AAG 3921 G G K Y D D V T L M G A E V A S G G C M 1327 GGG GGC AAG TAC GAC GTC ACC CTG ATG GGC GCG GAG GTA GCC AGC GGC GGC TGC ATG 3981 K T G L W K S E T T V 1339 4017 ANG ACC GGA CTC TOG ANG AGC GAA ACT ACC GTC TAA GGTQGGGCGGCGCGGTAGACGGCTTGGCCACGCGGCTCGTTCCCCCGGTGCCCTCCAAGGTGTCTCCC TACTCACCACOTTGGAGGCAGAGCAGCCGATGGCTGGAGGAAGCCCACAGGCGGATGTTCCCCACTTGCCTAGAGGGCA TCCCTCTGGGGTMGCGACAGACAATCCCAGAAACACGCATAATACATTTCCGTCCAGCCCGGGGCAGTCTGACTGTCGG TGCCCTCCCAGGAACGGGGAACGCCTCCGGTCTGTGTGAAAGGGCACAGCACATCCCAGGTGCACCCTCCCCAAGTACTC CCACCCCCCCTACTGTCCATGCCCCCTCACTGCCGGCCATCAGCCTCACCAGCAAAGCAGAGATGAGAGCGTGGGAACT GIOTICITICCTCCCTGCCCTCTACTGATTTCAGCCCAGCCCCTGCCTAGATCCTAGGTCCCTTTTCCTCCCGAGTTTC CCTCCCCACGAGGCCTAGCCCACCACACGCAGCACCTGAAGCTAATGTTAAGTCACAAGGTTGCTGCTTTTCAGATCCACTATGCAA GAGGGGACCCTGCGGCCACCTGAAACCCAGCTCTAGACATCAACCAGTCCTGGGGGAGGGGGATCCGAACCCGGCCACAA

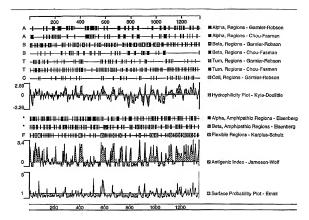




GURE 2B



DESERBER 'CONSESSES #1': When all match the residue of the Consesses show the residue of the Consessus, otherwise show '.'. Decoration 'Decoration #1': Shade (with solid black) residues that natch the Consersus exactly.



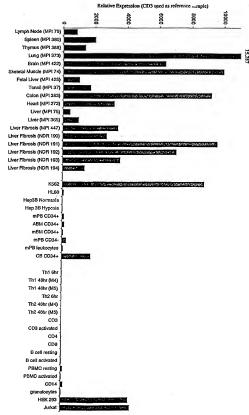


FIGURE 4



FIGURE 5

I Iver (& PI 75) Lit ver (MF 1 365) L vor(MF 1 339) LIV # (NDI 1 154) Liv r (ND(1208) Li ror (Pf * 250) Liver Fibrox is (MF I 447) Liver Fibros s (NDf : 191) Liver Fibros s (NDF: 192) Liver Fibrosi s (NDF:193) Liver Fibrosi i (NIDF . 194) Liver Fibrosi i (NDF 195) Liver Fibrosi i (NDF 204) Liver Fibrosi (NDF 126) Liver Fibrosi: (NDR 113) Liver Fibros is (ND 179) Liver Fibroak (NDR 112) Liver Fibrosit (NDR 225) Uver Fibrosis (NDR 141)

FIGURE 6

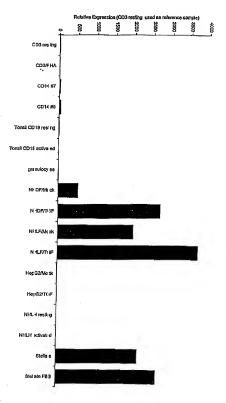


FIGURE 7

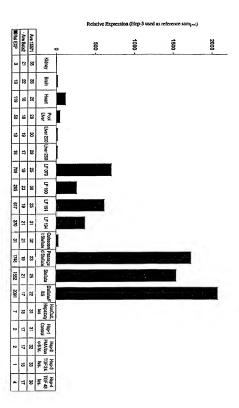


FIGURE 8

WO 01/09328 PCT/US00/21278 16/17

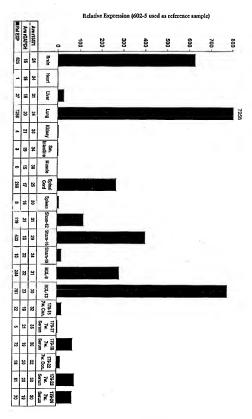


FIGURE 9

					Relative	Express	ion (6	02-5 used	l as refer	ence samp	le)	
M Rei EXP	Ave rGAPDH	Aver15571		100 -	200 -		300	400 -	500 -	600	700 -	60
-	17	22	24 hrs.									
2	18	r	24 hrs. 24 hrs.									
_	21	38	602-5 Con. 24 hrs									
••	8	ĸ	48 km 48 km									
83	8	23	602-9 CCL4 48 hrs.									
۵	20	35	602-12 Con. 48 hrs.									
0	21	40	593-1 CCL4 6w, dis-24h									
2	21	37	593-3 CCL4 6w, dis 24h									
Ē	z	ដ	593-5 Con. for #1 and 3									
5	22	8	593-6 Con. for #1 and 3									
2	21	ĸ	593-7 CCL4 6w. dls. 48h									
=	56	¥	583-8 CCL4 6w. dis.48h									
ż	18	29	802-8 CCCL4 802-9 CCCL4 802-12 Com. 859-1 CCCL4 8593-5 CCL4 859-5 Com. 859-5 Com. 859-7 CCL4 859-5 CCCL4 859-6 CCC									
3	и	\neg	593-10 Con.									

SEQUENCE LISTING

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ctg ctg ccg ctg ctg ccg tgg ctc ctg ctg	458
egg gge geg ece gge tge eeg eta tee ate ege age tge aag tge teg Arg Gly Ala Pro Gly Cys Pro Leu Ser Ile Arg Ser Cys Lys Cys Ser 45 45	506
ggg gag egg ece aag ggg etg age gge gte eet gge eeg get egg Gly Glu Arg Pro Lys Gly Leu Ser Gly Gly Val Pro Gly Pro Ala Arg 50 55 60	554
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65					70					75					
ggc ctt Gly Leu 80	ctg Leu	cct Pro	aac Asn	ggc Gly 85	acc Thr	gtt Val	acc Thr	ctg Leu	ctc Leu 90	ttg Leu	agc Ser	aat Asn	aac Asn	aag Lys 95	650
atc acg Ile Thr	ggg Gly	ctc Leu	cgc Arg 100	aat Asn	ggc Gly	tcc Ser	ttc Phe	ctg Leu 105	gga Gly	ctg Leu	tca Ser	ctg Leu	ctg Leu 110	gag Glu	698
aag ctg Lys Leu	gac Asp	ctg Leu 115	agg Arg	aac Asn	aac Asn	atc Ile	atc Ile 120	agc Ser	aca Thr	gtg Val	cag Gln	ccg Pro 125	ggc Gly	gcc Ala	746
ttc ctg Phe Leu	ggc Gly 130	ctg Leu	ggg Gly	gag Glu	ctg Leu	aag Lys 135	cgt Arg	tta Leu	gat Asp	ctc Leu	tcc Ser 140	aac Asn	aac Asn	cgg Arg	794
att ggc Ile Gly 145	tgt Cys	ctc Leu	acc Thr	tcc Ser	gag Glu 150	acc Thr	ttc Phe	cag Gln	ggc Gly	ctc Leu 155	ccc Pro	agg Arg	ctt Leu	ctc Leu	842
cga cta Arg Leu 160	aac Asn	ata Ile	tct Ser	gga Gly 165	aac Asn	atc Ile	ttc Phe	tcc Ser	agt Ser 170	ctg Leu	caa Gln	cct Pro	G1y ggg	gtc Val 175	890
ttt gat Phe Asp	gag Glu	ctg Leu	cca Pro 180	gcc Ala	ctt Leu	aag Lys	gtt Val	gtg Val 185	gac Asp	ttg Leu	ggc Gly	acc Thr	gag Glu 190	ttc Phe	938
ctg acc Leu Thr	tgt Cys	gac Asp 195	tgc Cys	cac His	ctg Leu	cgc Arg	tgg Trp 200	ctg Leu	ctg Leu	ccc Pro	tgg Trp	gcc Ala 205	cag Gln	aat Asn	986
cgc tcc Arg Ser															1034
ctg cat Leu His 225	gct Ala	cag Gln	gcc Ala	ctg Leu	ggc Gly 230	agc Ser	ctc Leu	cag Gln	gag Glu	gcc Ala 235	cag Gln	ctc Leu	tgc Cys	tgc Cys	1082
gag ggg Glu Gly 240															1130
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tac ctg Tyr Leu	ggc Gly	aac Asn 275	gac Asp	acc Thr	cgc Arg	atc Ile	cgc Arg 280	tgg Trp	tac Tyr	cac His	aac Asn	cga Arg 285	gcc Ala	cct Pro	1226
gtg gag Val Glu	ggt Gly 290	gat Asp	gag Glu	cag Gln	gcg Ala	ggc Gly 295	atc Ile	ctc Leu	ctg Leu	gcc Ala	gag Glu 300	agc Ser	ctc Leu	atc Ile	1274
cac gac His Asp 305	tgc Cys	acc Thr	ttc Phe	atc Ile	acc Thr 310	agt Ser	gag Glu	ctg Leu	acg Thr	ctg Leu 315	tct Ser	cac His	atc Ile	ggc Gly	1322

gtg Val 320	tgg Trp	gcc Ala	tca Ser	ggc Gly	gag Glu 325	tgg Trp	gag Glu	tgc Cys	acc Thr	gtg Val 330	tcc Ser	atg Met	gcc Ala	caa Gln	ggc Gly 335	1370
aac Asn	gcc Ala	agc Ser	aag Lys	aag Lys 340	gtg Val	gag Glu	atc Ile	gtg Val	gtg Val 345	ctg Leu	gag Glu	acc Thr	tct Ser	gcc Ala 350	tcc Ser	1418
tac Tyr	tgc Cys	ccc Pro	gcc Ala 355	gag Glu	cgt Arg	gtt Val	gcc Ala	aac Asn 360	aac Asn	cgc Arg	ggg Gly	gac Asp	ttc Phe 365	agg Arg	tgg Trp	1466
ccc Pro	cga Arg	act Thr 370	ctg Leu	gct Ala	ggc Gly	atc Ile	aca Thr 375	gcc Ala	tac Tyr	cag Gln	tcc Ser	tgc Cys 380	ctg Leu	cag Gln	tat Tyr	1514
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tcc Ser 400	cgc Arg	cgg Arg	tgt Cys	gac Asp	cgt Arg 405	gcc Ala	ggc Gly	cgc Arg	tgg Trp	gag Glu 410	cca Pro	ggg Gly	gac Asp	tac Tyr	tcc Ser 415	1610
His	Cys	Leu	Tyr	Thr 420	aac Asn	Asp	Ile	Thr	Arg 425	Val	Leu	Tyr	Thr	430	Val	1658
Leu	Met	Pro	I1e 435	Asn	gcc Ala	Ser	Asn	A1a 440	Leu	Thr	Leu	Ala	His 445	Gln	Leu	1706
Arg	Val	Tyr 450	Thr	Ala	gag Glu	Ala	Ala 455	Ser	Phe	Ser	Asp	Met 460	Met	Asp	Val	1754
Val	Tyr 465	Val	Ala	Gln	atg Met	11e 470	Gln	Lys	Phe	Leu	Gly 475	Tyr	Val	Asp	GIn	1802
11e 480	Lys	Glu	Leu	Val	gag Glu 485	Va1	Met	Val	Asp	Met 490	Ala	Ser	Asn	Leu	Met 495	1850
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													gac Asp			2138
													ctg Leu 605			2186
													ctg Leu			2234
													gtg Val			2282
gac Asp 640	tgc Cys	acc Thr	ctg Leu	caa Gln	ctg Leu 645	ctc Leu	gtc Val	ttc Phe	cga Arg	aat Asn 650	ggc Gly	cgc Arg	ctc Leu	ttc Phe	cac His 655	2330
													ggc Gly			2378
cgt Arg	ggc Gly	gtg Val	gcc Ala 675	acc Thr	ccc Pro	gtc Val	atc Ile	ttc Phe 680	gca Ala	gga Gly	acc Thr	agt Ser	ggc Gly 685	tgt Cys	ggc Gly	2426
gtg Val	gga Gly	aac Asn 690	ctg Leu	aca Thr	gag Glu	cca Pro	gtg Val 695	gcc Ala	gtt Val	tcg Ser	ctg Leu	cgg Arg 700	cac His	tgg Trp	gct Ala	2474
Glu	Gly 705	Ala	Glu	Pro	Val	Ala 710	Ala	Trp	Trp	Ser	Gln 715	Glu	Gly Ggg	Pro	Gly	2522
Glu 720	Ala	Gly	Gly	Trp	Thr 725	Ser	Glu	Gly	Cys	Gln 730	Leu	Arg	tcc Ser	Ser	Gln 735	2570
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													gcc Ala 765			2666
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gtg	tcc	cgg	aaa	ggc	tgg	cac	atg	ctg	ctg	aac	ttg	tgc	ttc	cac	ata	2810

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	acg Thr															2954
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	ccc Pro															3050
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	cac His															3146
ttc Phe	tac Tyr	atc Ile 930	cct Pro	gtg Val	gct Ala	ttg Leu	att Ile 935	ctg Leu	ctc Leu	atc Ile	acc Thr	tgg Trp 940	atc Ile	tat Tyr	ttc Phe	3194
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	ggc Gly															3290
	acc Thr															3338
	ctt Leu			Gly					Gly					Pro		3386
	ggt Gl y		Ser					Gly					Ala			3434
	acg Thr 1025	His					Ala					Gly				3482
	tcc Ser															3530

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tcc cca agc ggc agc Ser Pro Ser Gly Ser 1120	agc ggc cat ccg ctg Ser Gly His Pro Leu 1125	gct ctg ggc ccc tgc Ala Leu Gly Pro Cys 1130	aag 3770 Lys 1135
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gcg gcc ggc ggg gaa Ala Ala Gly Gly Glu 1155	gga gag ccg gag ccg Gly Glu Pro Glu Pro 1160	gcg ggc acc cgg gga Ala Gly Thr Arg Gly 1165	aac 3866 Asn
ctc gcc cac cgc cac Leu Ala His Arg His 1170	ccc aac aac gtg cac Pro Asn Asn Val His 1175	cac ggg cgt cgg gcg His Gly Arg Arg Ala 1180	cac 3914 His
aag agc cgg gcc aag Lys Ser Arg Ala Lys 1185	gga cac cgc gcg ggg Gly His Arg Ala Gly 1190	gag gcc tgc ggc aag Glu Ala Cys Gly Lys 1195	aac 3962 Asn
cgg ctc aag gcc ctg Arg Leu Lys Ala Leu 1200	cgc ggg ggc gcg gcg Arg Gly Gly Ala Ala 1205	ggg gcg ctg gag ctg Gly Ala Leu Glu Leu 1210	ctg 4010 Leu 1215
tee age gag age gge Ser Ser Glu Ser Gly 122	agt ctg cac aac agc Ser Leu His Asn Ser 0 122	Pro Thr Asp Ser Tyr	Leu
ggc agc agc cgc aac Gly Ser Ser Arg Asn 1235	agc ccg ggc gcc ggc Ser Pro Gly Ala Gly 1240	ctg cag ctg gaa ggc Leu Gln Leu Glu Gly 1245	gag 4106 Glu
ccc atg ctc acg ccg Pro Met Leu Thr Pro 1250	tcc gag ggc agc gac Ser Glu Gly Ser Asp 1255	acc agc gcc gcg ccg Thr Ser Ala Ala Pro 1260	ctt 4154 Leu
tot gag gcg ggc cgg Ser Glu Ala Gly Arg 1265	gca ggc cag cgc cgc Ala Gly Gln Arg Arg 1270	agc gcc agc cgc gac Ser Ala Ser Arg Asp 1275	agt 4202 Ser
ctc aag ggc ggc ggc Leu Lys Gly Gly Gly 1280	gcg ctg gag aag gag Ala Leu Glu Lys Glu 1285	agc cat cgc cgc tcg Ser His Arg Arg Ser 1290	tac 4250 Tyr 1295

ccg ctc aac gcc gcc agc cta aac ggc gcc ccc aag ggg ggc aag tac Pro Leu Asn Ala Ala Ser Leu Asn Gly Ala Pro Lys Gly Gly Lys Tyr 1300 1305 1310	4298
gac gac gtc acc ctg atg ggc gcg gag gta gcc agc ggc ggc tgc atg Asp Asp Val Thr Leu Met Gly Ala Glu Val Ala Ser Gly Gly Cys Met 1315 1320 1325	4346
aag acc gga ctc tgg aag agc gaa act acc gtc taaggtgggg cgggcgacgc Lys Thr Gly Leu Trp Lys Ser Glu Thr Thr Val 1330 1335	4399
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Glu Arg Pro Lys Gly Leu Ser Gly Gly Val Pro Gly Pro Ala Arg Arg 50 55 60	
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Leu Leu Pro Asn Gly Thr Val Thr Leu Leu Leu Ser Asn Asn Lys Ile 85 90 95	

Thr Gly Leu Arg Asn Gly Ser Phe Leu Gly Leu Ser Leu Leu Glu Lys Leu Asp Leu Arg Asn Asn Ile Ile Ser Thr Val Gln Pro Gly Ala Phe Leu Gly Leu Gly Glu Leu Lys Arg Leu Asp Leu Ser Asn Asn Arg Ile Gly Cys Leu Thr Ser Glu Thr Phe Gln Gly Leu Pro Arg Leu Leu Arg Leu Asn Ile Ser Gly Asn Ile Phe Ser Ser Leu Gln Pro Gly Val Phe Asp Glu Leu Pro Ala Leu Lys Val Val Asp Leu Gly Thr Glu Phe Leu Thr Cys Asp Cys His Leu Arg Trp Leu Leu Pro Trp Ala Gln Asn Arg Ser Leu Gln Leu Ser Glu His Thr Leu Cys Ala Tyr Pro Ser Ala Leu His Ala Gln Ala Leu Gly Ser Leu Gln Glu Ala Gln Leu Cys Cys Glu Gly Ala Leu Glu Leu His Thr His His Leu Ile Pro Ser Leu Arg Gln Val Val Phe Gln Gly Asp Arg Leu Pro Phe Gln Cys Ser Ala Ser Tyr Leu Gly Asn Asp Thr Arg Ile Arg Trp Tyr His Asn Arg Ala Pro Val Glu Gly Asp Glu Gln Ala Gly Ile Leu Leu Ala Glu Ser Leu Ile His Asp Cys Thr Phe Ile Thr Ser Glu Leu Thr Leu Ser His Ile Gly Val Trp Ala Ser Gly Glu Trp Glu Cys Thr Val Ser Met Ala Gln Gly Asn Ala Ser Lys Lys Val Glu Ile Val Val Leu Glu Thr Ser Ala Ser Tyr Cys Pro Ala Glu Arg Val Ala Asn Asn Arg Gly Asp Phe Arg Trp Pro Arg Thr Leu Ala Gly Ile Thr Ala Tyr Gln Ser Cys Leu Gln Tyr Pro Phe Thr Ser Val Pro Leu Gly Gly Gly Ala Pro Gly Thr Arg Ala Ser Arg Arg Cys Asp Arg Ala Gly Arg Trp Glu Pro Gly Asp Tyr Ser His Cys Leu Tyr Thr Asn Asp Ile Thr Arg Val Leu Tyr Thr Phe Val Leu Met Pro Ile Asn Ala Ser Asn Ala Leu Thr Leu Ala His Gln Leu Arg Val Tyr Thr Ala Glu Ala Ala Ser Phe Ser Asp Met Met Asp Val Val Tyr Val Ala Gln Met Ile Gln Lys Phe Leu Gly Tyr Val Asp Gln Ile Lys Glu Leu Val Glu Val Met Val Asp Met Ala Ser Asn Leu Met Leu Val Asp Glu His Leu Leu Trp Leu Ala Gln Arg Glu Asp Lys Ala Cys Ser Arg Ile Val Gly Ala Leu Glu Arg Ile Gly Gly Ala Ala Leu Ser Pro His Ala Gln His Ile Ser Val Asn Ala Arg Asn Val Ala Leu Glu Ala Tyr Leu Ile Lys Pro His Ser Tyr Val Gly Leu Thr Cys Thr Ala Phe Gln Arg Arg Glu Gly Gly Val Pro Gly Thr Arg Pro Gly Ser Pro Gly Gln Asn Pro Pro Pro Glu Pro Glu Pro Pro Ala Asp Gln Gln Leu

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His	Ile 610	Lys	Asn	Ser	Val	Ala 615	Leu	Ala	Ser	Ile	Gln 620	Leu	Pro	Pro	Ser
625	Phe				630			•		635					640
-	Thr			645					650					655	
His	Ser	Asn	Thr 660	Ser	Arg	Pro	Gly	Ala 665	Ala	Gly	Pro	Gly	Lys 670	Arg	Arg
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-	Asn 690					695					700				
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	Gly			725					730					735	
	Val		740					745					750		
	Glu	755					760					765			
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785	Ala				790	-				795					800
	Arg			805					810					815	
	Thr		820					825					830		
	Val	835					840					845			
	Leu 850		-		-	855	-				860				
Thr 865	-	-			870					875			Leu		880
	Ser			885					890					895	
	Ile	-	900					905					910		
	Ser	915					920					925			
-	11e 930					935					940				
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	Asn			965					970					975	
	Arg		980					985					990		
	Ala	995	-				1000	o -				100	5		
-	Asp 1010)				1015	5				1020)			
Thr 102	His 5	Phe	Leu	Tyr	Leu 103		Met	Trp	Ala	Cys 103		Ala	Leu	Ala	Val 1040
	Gln	Arg	Trp	Leu 104	Pro		Val	Val	Cys 1050	Ser		Leu	Tyr	Gly 1055	Val
Ala	Ala	Ser	Ala 106		Gly	Leu	Phe	Val 1065		Thr	His	His	Cys 1070	Ala)	Arg

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                     1080
     1075
Pro Ala Ala Pro His Ala Pro Pro Arg Ala Leu Pro Ala Ala Ala Glu
  1090 1095 1100
Asp Gly Ser Pro Val Phe Gly Glu Gly Pro Pro Ser Leu Lys Ser Ser
1105 1110 1115
Pro Ser Gly Ser Ser Gly His Pro Leu Ala Leu Gly Pro Cys Lys Leu
           1125 1130
                                            1135
Thr Asn Leu Gln Leu Ala Gln Ser Gln Val Cys Glu Ala Gly Ala Ala
        1140 1145
                                 1150
Ala Gly Gly Glu Gly Glu Pro Glu Pro Ala Gly Thr Arg Gly Asn Leu
                              1165
     1155 1160
Ala His Arg His Pro Asn Asn Val His His Gly Arg Arg Ala His Lys
                                  1180
                   1175
Ser Arg Ala Lys Gly His Arg Ala Gly Glu Ala Cys Gly Lys Asn Arg
               1190
                              1195
Leu Lys Ala Leu Arg Gly Gly Ala Ala Gly Ala Leu Glu Leu Leu Ser
            1205
                          1210
Ser Glu Ser Gly Ser Leu His Asn Ser Pro Thr Asp Ser Tyr Leu Gly
                       1225 1230
        1220
Ser Ser Arg Asn Ser Pro Gly Ala Gly Leu Gln Leu Glu Gly Glu Pro
                     1240 1245
    1235
Met Leu Thr Pro Ser Glu Gly Ser Asp Thr Ser Ala Ala Pro Leu Ser
                1255 1260
Glu Ala Gly Arg Ala Gly Gln Arg Arg Ser Ala Ser Arg Asp Ser Leu
             1270 1275
Lys Gly Gly Gly Ala Leu Glu Lys Glu Ser His Arg Arg Ser Tyr Pro
           1285 1290 1295
Leu Asn Ala Ala Ser Leu Asn Gly Ala Pro Lys Gly Gly Lys Tyr Asp
                         1305
                                        1310
        1300
Asp Val Thr Leu Met Gly Ala Glu Val Ala Ser Gly Gly Cys Met Lys
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                               1325
Thr Gly Leu Trp Lys Ser Glu Thr Thr Val
                  1335
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gcatcacage tgcagtcaac a
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    <213> Artificial Sequence
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    <223> oligonucleotide primer
    <400> 4
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100 105 110 Thr Cys Gln Asp Val Asp Glu Cys Gln Gln Asn Pro Arg Leu Cys Lys

							120					125			
0	m	115	m\	o	17-1			Ton	C1	000	Tur		Cys	Gla	Cue
	130	-				135					140				
Leu 145	Pro	Gly	Phe	Lys	Phe 150	Ile	Pro	Glu	Asp	Pro 155	Lys	Val	Cys	Thr	Asp 160
Val	Asn	Glu	Cys	Thr 165	Ser	Gly	Gln	Asn	Pro 170	Суѕ	His	Ser	Ser	Thr 175	His
Cys	Leu	Asn	Asn 180		Gly	Ser	Tyr	Gln 185	Суз	Arg	Суѕ	Arg	Pro 190	Gly	Trp
Gln	Pro	Ile 195		Gly	Ser	Pro	Asn 200		Pro	Asn	Asn	Thr 205	Val	Суз	Glu
Asp	Val 210		Glu	Cys	Ser	Ser 215	Gly	Gln	His	Gln	Cys 220	Asp	Ser	Ser	Thr
Val 225		Phe	Asn	Thr	Val 230	Gly	Ser	Tyr	Ser	Cys 235	Arg	Cys	Arg	Pro	Gly 240
Trp	Lys	Pro	Arg	His 245	Gly	Ile	Pro	Asn	Asn 250	Gln	Lys	Asp	Thr	Val 255	Cys
			260					265					Val 270		
		275					280					285	Gly		
	290					295					300		Ile		
305	-				310					315			Leu		320
				325					330				Leu	335	
			340					345					Phe 350		
		355					360					365	Glu		
-	370					375					380		Lys		
385					390					395			Val		400
				405					410				Ala	415	Leu
Asn			420	-				425					Tyr 430		
Ser		435					440					445	Asn		
	450					455					460		Ile		
465					470					475			Arg		480
		-		485					490				Leu	495	
Phe	-		500					505					Thr 510		
-		515					520					525	Gln		
	530					535					540		Val		
545					550					555			Ser		560
	Leu			565					570				Pro	575	
Gly			580					585					590		
Gly	Ser	595	тте	rne	Leu	ATG	600	тте	GIU	asn	310	605	Gly	GIH	val

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Gly Leu Arg Cys Arg Leu Val Ala Gly Leu Leu His Tyr Cys Phe Leu
                       615
                                          620
Ala Ala Phe Cys Trp Met Ser Leu Glu Gly Leu Glu Leu Tyr Phe Leu
                  630
                                      635
Val Val Arg Val Phe Gln Gly Gln Gly Leu Ser Thr Arg Trp Leu Cys
               645
                                  650
Leu Ile Gly Tyr Gly Val Pro Leu Leu Ile Val Gly Val Ser Ala Ala
           660
                              665
Ile Tyr Ser Lys Gly Tyr Gly Arg Pro Arg Tyr Cys Trp Leu Asp Phe
                          680
                                              685
Glu Gln Gly Phe Leu Trp Ser Phe Leu Gly Pro Val Thr Phe Ile Ile
                       695
Leu Cys Asn Ala Val Ile Phe Val Thr Thr Val Trp Lys Leu Thr Gln
                   710
                                      715
Lys Phe Ser Glu Ile Asn Pro Asp Met Lys Lys Leu Lys Lys Ala Arg
                                  730
              725
Ala Leu Thr Ile Thr Ala Ile Ala Gln Leu Phe Leu Leu Gly Cys Thr
           740
                              745
Trp Val Phe Gly Leu Phe Ile Phe Asp Asp Arg Ser Leu Val Leu Thr
                          760
Tyr Val Phe Thr Ile Leu Asn Cys Leu Gln Gly Ala Phe Leu Tyr Leu
                      775
Leu His Cys Leu Leu Asn Lys Lys Val Arg Glu Glu Tyr Arg Lys Trp
          790
                                     795
Ala Cys Leu Val Ala Gly Gly Ser Lys Tyr Ser Glu Phe Thr Ser Thr
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                        810 815
Thr Ser Gly Thr Gly His Asn Gln Thr Arg Ala Leu Arg Ala Ser Glu
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Ser Gly Ile
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Met Ile Leu Val Thr Ala Glu Leu Glu Glu Ser Pro Glu Asp Ser Ile
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Gln Leu Gly Val Thr Arg Asn Lys Ile Met Thr Ala Gln Tyr Glu Cys
                         40
Tyr Gln Lys Ile Met Gln Asp Pro Ile Gln Gln Ala Glu Gly Val Tyr
                      55
Cys Asn Arg Thr Trp Asp Gly Trp Leu Cys Trp Asn Asp Val Ala Ala
                   70
                                     75
Gly Thr Glu Ser Met Gln Leu Cys Pro Asp Tyr Phe Gln Asp Phe Asp
               85
                                  90
Pro Ser Glu Lys Val Thr Lys Ile Cys Asp Gln Asp Gly Asn Trp Phe
           100
                             105
Arg His Pro Ala Ser Asn Arg Thr Trp Thr Asn Tyr Thr Gln Cys Asn
       115
                          120
                                             125
Val Asn Thr His Glu Lys Val Lys Thr Ala Leu Asn Leu Phe Tyr Leu
                       135
                                         140
Thr Ile Ile Gly His Gly Leu Ser Ile Ala Ser Leu Leu Ile Ser Leu
                  150
                                      155
Gly Ile Phe Phe Tyr Phe Lys Ser Leu Ser Cys Gln Arg Ile Thr Leu
              165
                                 170
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His Lys Asn Leu Phe Phe Ser Phe Val Cys Asn Ser Val Val Thr Ile 180 185 190

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Ile His Leu Thr Ala Val Ala Asn Asn Gln Ala Leu Val Ala Thr Asn
                          200
Pro Val Ser Cys Lys Val Ser Gln Phe Ile His Leu Tyr Leu Met Gly
                                        220
                      215
Cys Asn Tyr Phe Trp Met Leu Cys Glu Gly Ile Tyr Leu His Thr Leu
                  230
                                     235
Ile Val Val Ala Val Phe Ala Glu Lys Gln His Leu Met Trp Tyr Tyr
              245
                                 250
Phe Leu Gly Trp Gly Phe Pro Leu Ile Pro Ala Cys Ile His Ala Ile
           260
                             265
Ala Arg Ser Leu Tyr Tyr Asn Asp Asn Cys Trp Ile Ser Ser Asp Thr
                          280
His Leu Leu Tyr Ile Ile His Gly Pro Ile Cys Ala Ala Leu Leu Val
                      295
                                         300
Asn Leu Phe Phe Leu Leu Asn Ile Val Arg Val Leu Ile Thr Lys Leu
                                     315
                  310
Lys Val Thr His Gln Ala Glu Ser Asn Leu Tyr Met Lys Ala Val Arg
                                 330
               325
Ala Thr Leu Ile Leu Val Pro Leu Leu Gly Ile Glu Phe Val Leu Ile
          340
                             345
Pro Trp Arg Pro Glu Gly Lys Ile Ala Glu Glu Val Tyr Asp Tyr Ile
                         360
                                   365
Met His Ile Leu Met His Phe Gln Gly Leu Leu Val Ser Thr Ile Phe 370 375 380
Cys Phe Phe Asn Gly Glu Val Gln Ala Ile Leu Arg Arg Asn Trp Asn
                 390
                            395
Gln Tyr Lys Ile Gln Phe Gly Asn Ser Phe Ser Asn Ser Glu Ala Leu
                                410
            405
Arg Ser Ala Ser Tyr Thr Val Ser Thr Ile Ser Asp Gly Pro Gly Tyr
         420
                             425
Ser His Asp Cys Pro Ser Glu His Leu Asn Gly Lys Ser Ile His Asp
                        440
Ile Glu Asn Val Leu Leu Lys Pro Glu Asn Leu Tyr Asn
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<210> 11 <211> 444 <212> PRT

<213> Homo sapiens

<400> 11

Met Gly Gly His Pro Gln Leu Arg Leu Val Lys Ala Leu Leu Leu Leu 10 Gly Leu Asn Pro Val Ser Ala Ser Leu Gln Asp Gln His Cys Glu Ser 25 Leu Ser Leu Ala Ser Asn Ile Ser Gly Leu Gln Cys Asn Ala Ser Val 40 Asp Leu Ile Gly Thr Cys Trp Pro Arg Ser Pro Ala Gly Gln Leu Val 55 Val Arg Pro Cys Pro Ala Phe Phe Tyr Gly Val Arg Tyr Asn Thr Thr 70 75 Asn Asn Gly Tyr Arg Glu Cys Leu Ala Asn Gly Ser Trp Ala Ala Arg 90 85 Val Asn Tyr Ser Glu Cys Gln Glu Ile Leu Asn Glu Glu Lys Lys Ser 100 105 Lys Val His Tyr His Val Ala Val Ile Ile Asn Tyr Leu Gly His Cys 120 115 Ile Ser Leu Val Ala Leu Leu Val Ala Phe Val Leu Phe Leu Arg Leu 135 140 Arg Pro Gly Cys Thr His Trp Gly Asp Gln Ala Asp Gly Ala Leu Glu 150

Val Gly Ala Pro Trp Ser Gly Ala Pro Phe Gln Val Arg Arg Ser Ile 170 Arg Cys Leu Arg Asn Ile Ile His Trp Asn Leu Ile Ser Ala Phe Ile 180 185 Leu Arg Asn Ala Thr Trp Phe Val Val Gln Leu Thr Met Ser Pro Glu 200 Val His Gln Ser Asn Val Gly Trp Cys Arg Leu Val Thr Ala Ala Tyr 215 Asn Tyr Phe His Val Thr Asn Phe Phe Trp Met Phe Gly Glu Gly Cys 230 235 Tyr Leu His Thr Ala Ile Val Leu Thr Tyr Ser Thr Asp Arg Leu Arg 245 250 Lys Trp Met Phe Ile Cys Ile Gly Trp Gly Val Pro Phe Pro Ile Ile 260 265 Val Ala Trp Ala Ile Gly Lys Leu Tyr Tyr Asp Asn Glu Lys Cys Trp 280 285 Phe Gly Lys Arg Pro Gly Val Tyr Thr Asp Tyr Ile Tyr Gln Gly Pro 300 295 Met Ile Leu Val Leu Leu Ile Asn Phe Ile Phe Leu Phe Asn Ile Val 310 315 Arg Ile Leu Met Thr Lys Leu Arg Ald Ser Thr Thr Ser Glu Thr Ile 325 330 Gln Tyr Arg Lys Ala Val Lys Ala Thr Leu Val Leu Leu Pro Leu Leu 340 345 Gly Ile Thr Tyr Met Leu Phe Phe Val Asn Pro Gly Glu Asp Glu Val 360 355 365 Ser Arg Val Val Phe Ile Tyr Phe Asn Ser Phe Leu Glu Ser Phe Gln 375 380 Gly Phe Phe Val Ser Val Phe Tyr Cys Phe Leu Asn Ser Glu Val Arg 390 395 Ser Ala Ile Arg Lys Arg Trp His Arg Trp Gln Asp Lys His Ser Ile 405 410 Arg Ala Arg Val Ala Arg Ala Met Ser Ile Pro Thr Ser Pro Thr Arg 420 425 Val Ser Phe His Ser Ile Lys Gln Ser Thr Ala Val 435 440

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<213> Homo sapiens

<400> 12

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Arg Cys Leu Arg Asn Val Ile His Trp Asn Leu Ile Thr Thr Phe Ile 155 150 Leu Arg Asn Val Met Trp Phe Leu Leu Gln Leu Val Asp His Glu Val 165 170 His Glu Ser Asn Glu Val Trp Cys Arg Cys Ile Thr Thr Ile Phe Asn 180 185 Tyr Phe Val Val Thr Asn Phe Phe Trp Met Phe Val Glu Gly Cys Tyr 195 200 Leu His Thr Ala Ile Val Met Thr Tyr Ser Thr Glu Arg Leu Arg Lys 215 Cys Leu Phe Leu Phe Ile Gly Trp Cys Ile Pro Phe Pro Ile Ile Val 230 235 Ala Trp Ala Ile Gly Lys Leu Tyr Tyr Glu Asn Glu Gln Cys Trp Phe 245 250 Gly Lys Glu Pro Gly Asp Leu Val Asp Tyr Ile Tyr Gln Gly Pro Ile 270 260 265 Ile Leu Val Leu Leu Ile Asn Phe Val Phe Leu Phe Asn Ile Val Arg 285 280 Ile Leu Met Thr Lys Leu Arg Ala Ser Thr Thr Ser Glu Thr Ile Gln 295 300 Tyr Arg Lys Ala Val Lys Ala Thr Leu Val Leu Leu Pro Leu Leu Gly 310 315 Ile Thr Tyr Met Leu Phe Phe Val Asn Pro Gly Glu Asp Asp Leu Ser 325 330 Gln Ile Met Phe Ile Tyr Phe Asn Ser Phe Leu Gln Ser Phe Gln Gly 350 345 Phe Phe Val Ser Val Phe Tyr Cys Phe Phe Asn Gly Glu Val Arg Ser 360 365 355 Ala Val Arg Lys Arg Trp His Arg Trp Gln Asp His His Ser Leu Arg 375 380 370 Val Pro Met Ala Arg Ala Met Ser Ile Pro Thr Ser Pro Thr Arg Ile 390 Ser Phe His Ser Ile Lys Gln Thr Ala Ala Val

<210> 13

<211> 490 <212> PRT

<213> Homo sapiens

<400> 13

Met Arg Phe Thr Phe Thr Ser Arg Cys Leu Ala Leu Phe Leu Leu 1.0 Asn His Pro Thr Pro Ile Leu Pro Ala Phe Ser Asn Gln Thr Tyr Pro 25 Thr Ile Glu Pro Lys Pro Phe Leu Tyr Val Val Gly Arg Lys Lys Met 40 Met Asp Ala Gln Tyr Lys Cys Tyr Asp Arg Met Gln Gln Leu Pro Ala Tyr Gln Gly Glu Gly Pro Tyr Cys Asn Arg Thr Trp Asp Gly Trp Leu 70 75 Cys Trp Asp Asp Thr Pro Ala Gly Val Leu Ser Tyr Gln Phe Cys Pro 85 90 Asp Tyr Phe Pro Asp Phe Asp Pro Ser Glu Lys Val Thr Lys Tyr Cys 100 105 Asp Glu Lys Gly Val Trp Phe Lys His Pro Glu Asn Asn Arg Thr Trp 115 120 Ser Asn Tyr Thr Met Cys Asn Ala Phe Thr Pro Glu Lys Leu Lys Asn 140 135 Ala Tyr Val Leu Tyr Tyr Leu Ala Ile Val Gly His Ser Leu Ser Ile 155

Phe Thr Leu Val Ile Ser Leu Gly Ile Phe Val Phe Phe Arg Lys Leu Thr Thr Ile Phe Pro Leu Asn Trp Lys Tyr Arg Lys Ala Leu Ser Leu 180 185 Gly Cys Gln Arg Val Thr Leu His Lys Asn Met Phe Leu Thr Tyr Ile 200 Leu Asn Ser Met Ile Ile Ile Ile His Leu Val Glu Val Val Pro Asn 215 220 Gly Glu Leu Val Arg Arg Asp Pro Val Ser Cys Lys Ile Leu His Phe 230 235 Phe His Gln Tyr Met Met Ala Cys Asn Tyr Phe Trp Met Leu Cys Glu 245 250 Gly Ile Tyr Leu His Thr Leu Ile Val Val Ala Val Phe Thr Glu Lys 260 265 Gln Arg Leu Arg Trp Tyr Tyr Leu Leu Gly Trp Gly Phe Pro Leu Val 280 285 Pro Thr Thr Ile His Ala Ile Thr Arg Ala Val Tyr Phe Asn Asp Asn 295 300 Cys Trp Leu Ser Val Glu Thr His Leu Leu Tyr Ile Ile His Gly Pro 315 310 Val Met Ala Ala Leu Val Val Asn Phe Phe Phe Leu Leu Asn Ile Val 325 330 Arq Val Leu Val Thr Lys Met Arg Glu Thr His Glu Ala Glu Ser His 345 Met Tyr Leu Lys Ala Val Lys Ala Thr Met Ile Leu Val Pro Leu Leu 355 360 365 Gly Ile Gln Phe Val Val Phe Pro Trp Arg Pro Ser Asn Lys Met Leu 375 380 Gly Lys Ile Tyr Asp Tyr Val Met His Ser Leu Ile His Phe Gln Gly 390 395 Phe Phe Val Ala Thr Ile Tyr Cys Phe Cys Asn Asn Glu Val Gln Thr 405 410 Thr Val Lys Arg Gln Trp Ala Gln Phe Lys Ile Gln Trp Asn Gln Arg 425 Trp Gly Arg Arg Pro Ser Asn Arg Ser Ala Arg Ala Ala Ala Ala Ala 440 445 Ala Glu Ala Gly Asp Ile Pro Ile Tyr Ile Cys His Gln Glu Pro Arg 455 460 Asn Glu Pro Ala Asn Asn Gln Gly Glu Glu Ser Ala Glu Ile Ile Pro 470 Leu Asn Ile Ile Glu Gln Glu Ser Ser Ala 485

<210> 14 <211> 886

<212> PRT

<213> Homo sapiens

<400> 14

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Cys Lys Asn Leu Ser Gly Arg Tyr Lys Cys Ser Cys Leu Asp Gly Phe 100 105 Ser Ser Pro Thr Gly Asn Asp Trp Val Pro Gly Lys Pro Gly Asn Phe 115 120 125 Ser Cys Thr Asp Ile Asn Glu Cys Leu Thr Ser Arg Val Cys Pro Glu 140 . 135 His Ser Asp Cys Val Asn Ser Met Gly Ser Tyr Ser Cys Ser Cys Gln 150 155 Val Gly Phe Ile Ser Arg Asn Ser Thr Cys Glu Asp Val Asn Glu Cys 165 170 175 Ala Asp Pro Arg Ala Cys Pro Glu His Ala Thr Cys Asn Asn Thr Val 180 185 190 Gly Asn Tyr Ser Cys Phe Cys Asn Pro Gly Phe Glu Ser Ser Ser Gly 200 His Leu Ser Cys Gln Gly Leu Lys Ala Ser Cys Glu Asp Ile Asp Glu 215 220 Cys Thr Glu Met Cys Pro Ile Asn Ser Thr Cys Thr Asn Thr Pro Gly 230 235 Ser Tyr Phe Cys Thr Cys His Pro Gly Phe Ala Pro Ser Ser Gly Gln 245 250 Leu Asn Phe Thr Asp Gln Gly Val Glu Cys Arg Asp Ile Asp Glu Cys 265 Arg Gln Asp Pro Ser Thr Cys Gly Pro Asn Ser Ile Cys Thr Asn Ala 275 280 285 Leu Gly Ser Tyr Ser Cys Gly Cys Ile Val Gly Phe His Pro Asn Pro 290 295 300 Glu Gly Ser Gln Lys Asp Gly Asn Phe Ser Cys Gln Arg Val Leu Phe 315 310 Lys Cys Lys Glu Asp Val Ile Pro Asp Asn Lys Gln Ile Gln Gln Cys 325 330 Gln Glu Gly Thr Ala Val Lys Pro Ala Tyr Val Ser Phe Cys Ala Gln 345 Ile Asn Asn Ile Phe Ser Val Leu Asp Lys Val Cys Glu Asn Lys Thr 360 Thr Val Val Ser Leu Lys Asn Thr Thr Glu Ser Phe Val Pro Val Leu 375 380 Lys Gln Ile Ser Met Trp Thr Lys Phe Thr Lys Glu Glu Thr Ser Ser 390 395 Leu Ala Thr Val Phe Leu Glu Ser Val Glu Ser Met Thr Leu Ala Ser 405 410 Phe Trp Lys Pro Ser Ala Asn Val Thr Pro Ala Val Arg Ala Glu Tyr 425 Leu Asp Ile Glu Ser Lys Val Ile Asn Lys Glu Cys Ser Glu Glu Asn 440 445 Val Thr Leu Asp Leu Val Ala Lys Gly Asp Lys Met Lys Ile Gly Cys 455 460 Ser Thr Ile Glu Glu Ser Glu Ser Thr Glu Thr Thr Gly Val Ala Phe 465 470475475 Val Ser Phe Val Gly Met Glu Ser Val Leu Asn Glu Arg Phe Phe Gln 485 490 Asp His Gln Ala Pro Leu Thr Thr Ser Glu Ile Lys Leu Lys Met Asn 500 505 Ser Arg Val Val Gly Gly Ile Met Thr Gly Glu Lys Lys Asp Gly Phe 520 Ser Asp Pro Ile Ile Tyr Thr Leu Glu Asn Val Gln Pro Lys Gln Lys 535 Phe Glu Arg Pro Ile Cys Val Ser Trp Ser Thr Asp Val Lys Gly Gly 550 555 Arg Trp Thr Ser Phe Gly Cys Val Ile Leu Glu Ala Ser Glu Thr Tyr 565 570 Thr Ile Cys Ser Cys Asn Gln Met Ala Asn Leu Ala Val Ile Met Ala

585 Ser Gly Glu Leu Thr Met Asp Phe Ser Leu Tyr Ile Ile Ser His Val 595 600 605 Gly Ile Ile Ile Ser Leu Val Cys Leu Val Leu Ala Ile Ala Thr Phe 620 615 Leu Leu Cys Arg Ser Ile Arg Asn His Asn Thr Tyr Leu His Leu His 630 635 Leu Cys Val Cys Leu Leu Leu Ala Lys Thr Leu Phe Leu Ala Gly Ile 645 650 His Lys Thr Asp Asn Lys Thr Gly Cys Ala Ile Ile Ala Gly Phe Leu 660 665 His Tyr Leu Phe Leu Ala Cys Phe Phe Trp Met Leu Val Glu Ala Val 680 Ile Leu Phe Leu Met Val Arg Asn Leu Lys Val Val Asn Tyr Phe Ser 695 700 Ser Arg Asn Ile Lys Met Leu His Ile Cys Ala Phe Gly Tyr Gly Leu 710 715 Pro Met Leu Val Val Val Ile Ser Ala Ser Val Gln Pro Gln Gly Tyr 725 730 Gly Met His Asn Arg Cys Trp Leu Asn Thr Glu Thr Gly Phe Ile Trp 745 Ser Phe Leu Gly Pro Val Cys Thr Val Ile Val Ile Asn Ser Leu Leu Leu Thr Trp Thr Leu Trp Ile Leu Arg Gln Arg Leu Ser Ser Val Asn 775 Ala Glu Val Ser Thr Leu Lys Asp Thr Arg Leu Leu Thr Phe Lys Ala 790 795 Phe Ala Gln Leu Phe Ile Leu Gly Cys Ser Trp Val Leu Gly Ile Phe 8 0 5 810 Gln Ile Gly Pro Val Ala Gly Val Met Ala Tyr Leu Phe Thr Ile Ile 820 825 Asn Ser Leu Gln Gly Ala Phe Ile Phe Leu Ile His Cys Leu Leu Asn 835 840 845 Gly Gln Val Arg Glu Glu Tyr Lys Arg Trp Ile Thr Gly Lys Thr Lys 855 Pro Ser Ser Gln Ser Gln Thr Ser Arg Ile Leu Leu Ser Ser Met Pro 870 875 Ser Ala Ser Lys Thr Gly

<210> 15 <211> 466 <212> PRT <213> Homo sapiens

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115
Asp Gln Arg Leu Ile Leu Glu Arg Leu Gln Val Met Tyr Thr Val Gly
            135
                           140
Tyr Ser Leu Ser Leu Ala Thr Leu Leu Leu Ala Leu Leu Ile Leu Ser
               150
                                   155
Leu Phe Arg Arg Leu His Cys Thr Arg Asn Tyr Ile His Ile Asn Leu
             165
                                170
Phe Thr Ser Phe Met Leu Arg Ala Ala Ala Ile Leu Ser Arg Asp Arg
                            185
          180
Leu Leu Pro Arg Pro Gly Pro Tyr Leu Gly Asp Gln Ala Leu Ala Leu
                         200
      195
Trp Asn Gln Ala Leu Ala Ala Cys Arg Thr Ala Gln Ile Val Thr Gln
                     215
Tyr Cys Val Gly Ala Asn Tyr Thr Trp Leu Leu Val Glu Gly Val Tyr
                  230
                                    235
Leu His Ser Leu Leu Val Leu Val Gly Gly Ser Glu Glu Gly His Phe
              245
                                250
Arg Tyr Tyr Leu Leu Leu Gly Trp Gly Ala Pro Ala Leu Phe Val Ile
                            265
           260
Pro Trp Val Ile Val Arg Tyr Leu Tyr Glu Asn Thr Gln Cys Trp Glu
                        280
Arg Asn Glu Val Lys Ala Ile Trp Trp Ile Ile Arg Thr Pro Ile Leu
                     295
Met Thr Ile Leu Ile Asn Phe Leu Ile Phe Ile Arg Ile Leu Gly Ile
                                    315
                 310
Leu Leu Ser Lys Leu Arg Thr Arg Gln Met Arg Cys Arg Asp Tyr Arg
              325
                         330
Leu Arg Leu Ala Arg Ser Thr Leu Thr Leu Val Pro Leu Leu Gly Val
                  345
         340
His Glu Val Val Phe Ala Pro Val Thr Glu Glu Gln Ala Arg Gly Ala
       355
                         360
                                            365
Leu Arg Phe Ala Lys Leu Gly Phe Glu Ile Phe Leu Ser Ser Phe Gln
                     375
                                        380
Gly Phe Leu Val Ser Val Leu Tyr Cys Phe Ile Asn Lys Glu Val Gln
                 390
                                    395
Ser Glu Ile Arg Arg Gly Trp His His Cys Arg Leu Arg Arg Ser Leu
                                 410
              405
Gly Glu Glu Gln Arg Gln Leu Pro Glu Arg Ala Phe Arg Ala Leu Pro
          420
                            425
                                               430
Ser Gly Ser Gly Pro Gly Glu Val Pro Thr Ser Arg Gly Leu Ser Ser
                                 445
                       440
Gly Thr Leu Pro Gly Pro Gly Asn Glu Ala Ser Arg Glu Leu Glu Ser
                     455
Tyr Cys
465
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<210> 16 <211> 463 <212> PRT

<213> Homo sapiens

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Val Asn Val Ser Cys Pro Trp Tyr Leu Pro Trp Ala Ser Ser Val Pro
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                  90
Gln Gly His Val Tyr Arg Phe Cys Thr Ala Glu Gly Leu Trp Leu Gln
                           105
Lys Asp Asn Ser Ser Leu Pro Trp Arg Asp Leu Ser Glu Cys Glu Glu
               120
Ser Lys Arg Gly Glu Arg Ser Ser Pro Glu Glu Gln Leu Leu Phe Leu
                   135
Tyr Ile Ile Tyr Thr Val Gly Tyr Ala Leu Ser Phe Ser Ala Leu Val
              150
                         155
Ile Ala Ser Ala Ile Leu Leu Gly Phe Arg His Leu His Cys Thr Arg
            165 170
Asn Tyr Ile His Leu Asn Leu Phe Ala Ser Phe Ile Leu Arg Ala Leu
       180 185 190
Ser Val Phe Ile Lys Asp Ala Ala Leu Lys Trp Met Tyr Ser Thr Ala
      195
              200 205
Ala Gln Gln His Gln Trp Asp Gly Leu Leu Ser Tyr Gln Asp Ser Leu
                    215
Ser Cys Arg Leu Val Phe Leu Leu Met Gln Tyr Cys Val Ala Ala Asn
                 230
                                  235
Tyr Tyr Trp Leu Leu Val Glu Gly Val Tyr Leu Tyr Thr Leu Leu Ala
            245
                           250
Phe Ser Val Phe Ser Glu Gln Trp Ile Phe Arg Leu Tyr Val Ser Ile
          260
                           265
                                           270
Gly Trp Gly Val Pro Leu Leu Phe Val Val Pro Trp Gly Ile Val Lys
      275
                       280
                                         285
Tyr Leu Tyr Glu Asp Glu Gly Cys Trp Thr Arg Asn Ser Asn Met Asn
                  295
Tyr Trp Leu Ile Ile Arg Leu Pro Ile Leu Phe Ala Ile Gly Val Asn
                310
                                 315
Phe Leu Ile Phe Val Arg Val Ile Cys Ile Val Val Ser Lys Leu Lys
            325
                              330
Ala Asn Leu Met Cys Lys Thr Asp Ile Lys Cys Arg Leu Ala Lys Ser
         340
                          345
                                          350
Thr Leu Thr Leu Ile Pro Leu Leu Gly Thr His Glu Val Ile Phe Ala
                       360
                                         365
Phe Val Met Asp Glu His Ala Arg Gly Thr Leu Arg Phe Ile Lys Leu
                    375
                                     380
Phe Thr Glu Leu Ser Phe Thr Ser Phe Gln Gly Leu Met Val Ala Ile
                 390
                                  395
Leu Tyr Cys Phe Val Asn Asn Glu Val Gln Leu Glu Phe Arg Lys Ser
             405
                              410
Trp Glu Arg Trp Arg Leu Glu His Leu His Ile Gln Arg Asp Ser Ser
          420
                           425
                                            430
Met Lys Pro Leu Lys Cys Pro Thr Ser Ser Leu Ser Ser Gly Ala Thr
      435 440
Ala Gly Ser Ser Met Tyr Thr Ala Thr Cys Gln Ala Ser Cys Ser
                   455
     <210> 17
    <211> 477
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<212> PRT

<213> Homo sapiens

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Leu Leu Pro Pro Pro Thr Glu Leu Val Cys Asn Arg Thr Phe Asp Lys
           55
                                    60
Tyr Ser Cys Trp Pro Asp Thr Pro Ala Asn Thr Thr Ala Asn Ile Ser
                 70
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Cys Pro Trp Tyr Leu Pro Trp His His Lys Val Gln His Arg Phe Val
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Glu Val Gln Lys Glu Val Ala Lys Met Tyr Ser Ser Phe Gln Val Met
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Tyr Thr Val Gly Tyr Ser Leu Ser Leu Gly Ala Leu Leu Leu Ala Leu
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Ala Ile Leu Gly Gly Leu Ser Lys Leu His Cys Thr Arg Asn Ala Ile
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His Ala Asn Leu Phe Ala Ser Phe Val Leu Lys Ala Ser Ser Val Leu
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Val Ile Asp Gly Leu Leu Arg Thr Arg Tyr Ser Gln Lys Ile Gly Asp
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Asp Leu Ser Val Ser Thr Trp Leu Ser Asp Gly Ala Val Ala Gly Cys
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Arg Val Ala Ala Val Phe Met Gln Tyr Gly Ile Val Ala Asn Tyr Cys
225 230 235 240
Trp Leu Leu Val Glu Gly Leu Tyr Leu His Asn Leu Leu Gly Leu Ala
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Thr Leu Pro Glu Arg Ser Phe Phe Ser Leu Tyr Leu Gly Ile Gly Trp
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Gly Ala Pro Met Leu Phe Val Val Pro Trp Ala Val Val Lys Cys Leu
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Phe Glu Asn Val Gln Cys Trp Thr Ser Asn Asp Asn Met Gly Phe Trp
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Tro Ile Leu Arg Phe Pro Val Phe Leu Ala Ile Leu Ile Asn Phe Phe
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Ile Phe Val Arg Ile Val Gln Leu Leu Val Ala Lys Leu Arg Ala Arg
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Gln Met His His Thr Asp Tyr Lys Phe Arg Leu Ala Lys Ser Thr Leu
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Thr Leu Ile Pro Leu Leu Gly Val His Glu Val Val Phe Ala Phe Val
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Thr Asp Glu His Ala Gln Gly Thr Leu Arg Ser Ala Lys Leu Phe Phe
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Asp Leu Phe Leu Ser Ser Phe Gln Gly Leu Leu Val Ala Val Leu Tyr
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Cys Phe Leu Asn Lys Glu Val Gln Ser Glu Leu Arg Arg Arg Trp His
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His Arg Ala Ser Ser Ser Pro Gly His Gly Pro Pro Ser Lys Glu Leu
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<212> PRT <213> Homo sapiens

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Gln Ser Gln Tyr Trp Arg Leu Ser Lys Ser Thr Leu Phe Leu Ile Pro
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Gly Phe Ile Val Ala Ile Leu Tyr Cys Phe Leu Asn Gln Glu Val Arg
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Thr Glu Ile Ser Arg Lys Trp His Gly His Asp Pro Glu Leu Leu Pro
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	Ala		20					25					30		
	Суз	35					40					45			
Asp	Ser 50	Ser	Pro	Gly	Cys	Pro 55	Gly	Met	Trp	Asp	Asn 60	Ile	Thr	Cys	Trp
Lys 65	Pro	Ala	His	Val	Gly 70	Glu	Met	Val	Leu	Val 75	Ser	Суз	Pro	Glu	Leu 80
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-	Ser			165					170					175	
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	Phe			245					250					255	
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	Val			325					330					335	
	Pro		340					345					350		
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Gly Ser Val Leu Thr Thr Val Thr His Ser Thr Ser Ser Gln Ser Gln
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Val Ala Ala Ser Thr Arg Met Val Leu Ile Ser Gly Lys Ala Ala Lys
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Ile Ala Ser Arg Gln Pro Asp Ser His Ile Thr Leu Pro Gly Tyr Val
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Trp Ser Asn Ser Glu Gln Asp Cys Leu Pro His Ser Phe His Glu Glu
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Thr Lys Glu Asp Ser Gly Arg Gln Gly Asp Asp Ile Leu Met Glu Lys
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Ala Pro Thr Gly Ser Arg Tyr Arg Gly Arg Pro Cys Leu Pro Glu Trp
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Asp His Ile Leu Cys Trp Pro Leu Gly Ala Pro Gly Glu Val Val Ala
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Val Pro Cys Pro Asp Tyr Ile Tyr Asp Phe Asn His Lys Gly His Ala
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Tyr Arg Arg Cys Asp Arg Asn Gly Ser Trp Glu Leu Val Pro Gly His
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Asn Arg Thr Trp Ala Asn Tyr Ser Glu Cys Val Lys Phe Leu Thr Asn
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Glu Thr Arg Glu Arg Glu Val Phe Asp Arg Leu Gly Met Ile Tyr Thr
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Val Gly Tyr Ser Val Ser Leu Ala Ser Leu Thr Val Ala Val Leu Ile
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Leu Ala Tyr Phe Arg Arg Leu His Cys Thr Arg Asn Tyr Ile His Met
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His Leu Phe Leu Ser Phe Met Leu Arg Ala Val Ser Ile Phe Val Lys
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Asp Ser Ser Asn Glu Lys Arg His Ser Tyr Leu Leu Lys Leu Lys Val 135 Met Tyr Thr Val Gly Tyr Ser Ser Ser Leu Val Met Leu Leu Val Ala 150 155 Leu Gly Ile Leu Cys Ala Phe Arg Arg Leu His Cys Thr Arg Asn Tyr 165 170 Ile His Met His Leu Phe Val Ser Phe Ile Leu Arg Ala Leu Ser Asn 185 190 180 Phe Ile Lys Asp Ala Val Leu Phe Ser Ser Asp Asp Val Thr Tyr Cys 200 205 195 Asp Ala His Arg Ala Gly Cys Lys Leu Val Met Val Leu Phe Gln Tyr 215 220 Cys Ile Met Ala Asn Tyr Ser Trp Leu Leu Val Glu Gly Leu Tyr Leu 230 235 His Thr Leu Leu Ala Ile Ser Phe Phe Ser Glu Arg Lys Tyr Leu Gln 250 245 Gly Phe Val Ala Phe Gly Trp Gly Ser Pro Ala Ile Phe Val Ala Leu 260 265 270 Trp Ala Ile Ala Arg His Phe Leu Glu Asp Val Gly Cys Trp Asp Ile 275 280 285 Asn Ala Asn Ala Ser Ile Trp Trp Ile Ile Arg Gly Pro Val Ile Leu 295 300 Ser Ile Leu Ile Asn Phe Ile Leu Phe Ile Asn Ile Leu Arg Ile Leu 310 315 Met Arg Lys Leu Arg Thr Gln Glu Thr Arg Gly Asn Glu Val Ser His 325 330 Tyr Lys Arg Leu Ala Arg Ser Thr Leu Leu Leu Ile Pro Leu Phe Gly 340 345 350 Ile His Tyr Ile Val Phe Ala Phe Ser Pro Glu Asp Ala Met Glu Ile 360 355 365 Gln Leu Phe Phe Glu Leu Ala Leu Gly Ser Phe Gln Gly Leu Val Val 375 380 Ala Val Leu Tyr Cys Phe Leu Asn Gly Glu Val Gln Leu Glu Val Gln 390 395 Lys Lys Trp Gln Gln Trp His Leu Arg Glu Phe Pro Leu His Pro Val 405 410 Ala Ser Phe Ser Asn Ser Thr Lys Ala Ser His Leu Glu Gln Ser Gln 420 425 Gly Thr Cys Arg Thr Ser Ile Ile 435 440

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Leu Glu Pro Gly Pro Tyr Pro Ile Ala Cys Gly Leu Asp Asp Lys Ala Ala Ser Leu Asp Glu Gln Gln Thr Met Phe Tyr Gly Ser Val Lys Thr Gly Tyr Thr Ile Gly Tyr Gly Leu Ser Leu Ala Thr Leu Leu Val Ala Thr Ala Ile Leu Ser Leu Phe Arg Lys Leu His Cys Thr Arg Asn Tyr Ile His Met His Leu Phe Ile Ser Phe Ile Leu Arg Ala Ala Ala Val Phe Ile Lys Asp Leu Ala Leu Phe Asp Ser Gly Glu Ser Asp Gln Cys Ser Glu Gly Ser Val Gly Cys Lys Ala Ala Met Val Phe Phe Gln Tyr Cys Val Met Ala Asn Phe Phe Trp Leu Leu Val Glu Gly Leu Tyr Leu Tyr Thr Leu Leu Ala Val Ser Phe Phe Ser Glu Arg Lys Tyr Phe Trp Gly Tyr Ile Leu Ile Gly Trp Gly Val Pro Ser Thr Phe Thr Met Val Trp Thr Ile Ala Arg Ile His Phe Glu Asp Tyr Gly Cys Trp Asp Thr Ile Asn Ser Ser Leu Trp Trp Ile Ile Lys Gly Pro Ile Leu Thr Ser Ile Leu Val Asn Phe Ile Leu Phe Ile Cys Ile Ile Arg Ile Leu Leu Gln Lys Leu Arg Pro Pro Asp Ile Arg Lys Ser Asp Ser Ser Pro Tyr Ser Arg Leu Ala Arg Ser Thr Leu Leu Leu Ile Pro Leu Phe Gly Val His Tyr Ile Met Phe Ala Phe Phe Pro Asp Asn Phe Lys Pro Glu Val Lys Met Val Phe Glu Leu Val Val Gly Ser Phe Gln Gly Phe Val Val Ala Ile Leu Tyr Cys Phe Leu Asn Gly Glu Val Gln Ala Glu Leu Arg Arg Lys Trp Arg Trp His Leu Gln Gly Val Leu Gly Trp Asn Pro Lys Tyr Arg His Pro Ser Gly Gly Ser Asn Gly Ala Thr Cys Ser Thr Gln Val Ser Met Leu Thr Arg Val Ser Pro Gly Ala Arg Arg Ser Ser Ser Phe Gln Ala Glu Val Ser Leu Val

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His Lys Ala Cys Ser Gly Val Trp Asp Asn Ile Thr Cys Trp Arg Pro 50
Ala Asn Val Gly Glu Thr Val Tro Cys Pro Lys Val Phe Ser 65 76 80

Asn Phe Tyr Ser Lys Ala Gly Asn Ile Ser Lys Asn Cys Thr Ser Asp Gly Trp Ser Glu Thr Phe Pro Asp Phe Val Asp Ala Cys Gly Tyr Ser Asp Pro Glu Asp Glu Ser Lys Ile Thr Phe Tyr Ile Leu Val Lys Ala Ile Tyr Thr Leu Gly Tyr Ser Val Ser Leu Met Ser Leu Ala Thr Gly Ser Ile Ile Leu Cys Leu Phe Arg Lys Leu His Cys Thr Arg Asn Tyr Ile His Leu Asn Leu Phe Leu Ser Phe Ile Leu Arg Ala Ile Ser Val Leu Val Lys Asp Asp Val Leu Tyr Ser Ser Ser Gly Thr Leu His Cys Pro Asp Gln Pro Ser Ser Trp Val Gly Cys Lys Leu Ser Leu Val Phe Leu Gln Tyr Cys Ile Met Ala Asn Phe Phe Trp Leu Leu Val Glu Gly Leu Tyr Leu His Thr Leu Leu Val Ala Met Leu Pro Pro Arg Arg Cys Phe Leu Ala Tyr Leu Leu Ile Gly Trp Gly Leu Pro Thr Val Cys Ile Gly Ala Trp Thr Ala Ala Arg Leu Tyr Leu Glu Asp Thr Gly Cys Trp Asp Thr Asn Asp His Ser Val Pro Trp Trp Val Ile Arg Ile Pro Ile Leu Ile Ser Ile Ile Val Asn Phe Val Leu Phe Ile Ser Ile Ile Arg 295 300 Ile Leu Leu Gln Lys Leu Thr Ser Pro Asp Val Gly Gly Asn Asp Gln Ser Gln Tyr Lys Arg Leu Ala Lys Ser Thr Leu Leu Leu Ile Pro Leu Phe Gly Val His Tyr Met Val Phe Ala Val Phe Pro Ile Ser Ile Ser Ser Lys Tyr Gln Ile Leu Phe Glu Leu Cys Leu Gly Ser Phe Gln Gly Leu Val Val Ala Val Leu Tyr Cys Phe Leu Asn Ser Glu Val Gln Cys Glu Leu Lys Arg Lys Trp Arg Ser Arg Cys Pro Thr Pro Ser Ala Ser Arg Asp Tyr Arg Val Cys Gly Ser Ser Phe Ser Arg Asn Gly Ser Glu 405 410 Gly Ala Leu Gln Phe His Arg Gly Ser Arg Ala Gln Ser Phe Leu Gln Thr Glu Thr Ser Val Ile

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/21278

IPC(7)	ASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER :Please See Extra Sheet. :Please See Extra Sheet.										
According	to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to bot	h national classification and IPC									
	LDS SEARCHED										
Minimum o	documentation searched (classification system follow	ed by classification symbols)									
U.S. :	536/23.5, 23.1; 435/320.1, 252.3, 325, 69.1, 7.1,	, 6; 530/350, 300, 387.1; 514/12, 44									
Documenta	tion searched other than minimum documentation to th	e extent that such documents are included	in the fields searched								
Electronic	data base consulted during the international search (s	name of data base and, where practicabl	e, search terms used)								
	WEST, STN, Compugen (SEQ ID NOs 1 and 2), ATCC PTA 1660, G-protein coupled receptor, GPCR, GPCR-like, author name search										
C. DOC	CUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT										
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where a	ppropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.								
х	WO 98/45436 A2 (GENETICS INS 1998, pages 1-91, 365, and 574-alignment.	TITUTE, INC.) 15 October 618 and attached sequence	1, 3, 5-8, 11, 12, 14-20, and 22-26								
х	X ROBERTSON et al. Isolation of novel and known genes from a human fetal cochlea cDNA library using subtractive hybridization and differential screening. Genomics. 1994, Vol. 23, pages 42-50 and attached sequence alignment, see entire document.										
X,P											
	ner documents are listed in the continuation of Box (C. See patent family annex.									
.v. 40	ocial categories of cited documents: cument defining the general state of the art which is not considered	"T" heter document published efter the inte date and not in conflict with the appl the principle or theory underlying the	ication but cited to understand								
B +44	B" earlier document published on or efter the international filting date "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step										
eit	ed to establish the publication date of another citation or other social reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; th	e claimed invention cannot be								
O. do	cument referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other	considered to involve an invantive combined with one or more other such being obvious to a person skilled in t	step when the document is documents such combination								
the	cument published prior to the international filing data but leter than priority data claimed	*A* document member of the same patent									
	Date of the actual completion of the international search 25 SEPTEMBER 2000										
Name and r Commission Box PCT	Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Authoryteed officer JAMES-WAKEPOELL R Authoryteed officer JAMES-WAKEPOELL R Authoryteed officer JAMES-WAKEPOELL R Authoryteed officer										
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/21278

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER:
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C12N 15/12, 15/63, 15/00, 15/85; C07K 14/435, 16/00; C12P 21/02; G01N 33/53; C12Q 1/68; A61K 38/00; A61P 1/6
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536/23.5, 23.1; 435/320.1, 252.3, 325, 69.1, 7.1, 6; 530/350, 300, 387.1; 514/12, 44